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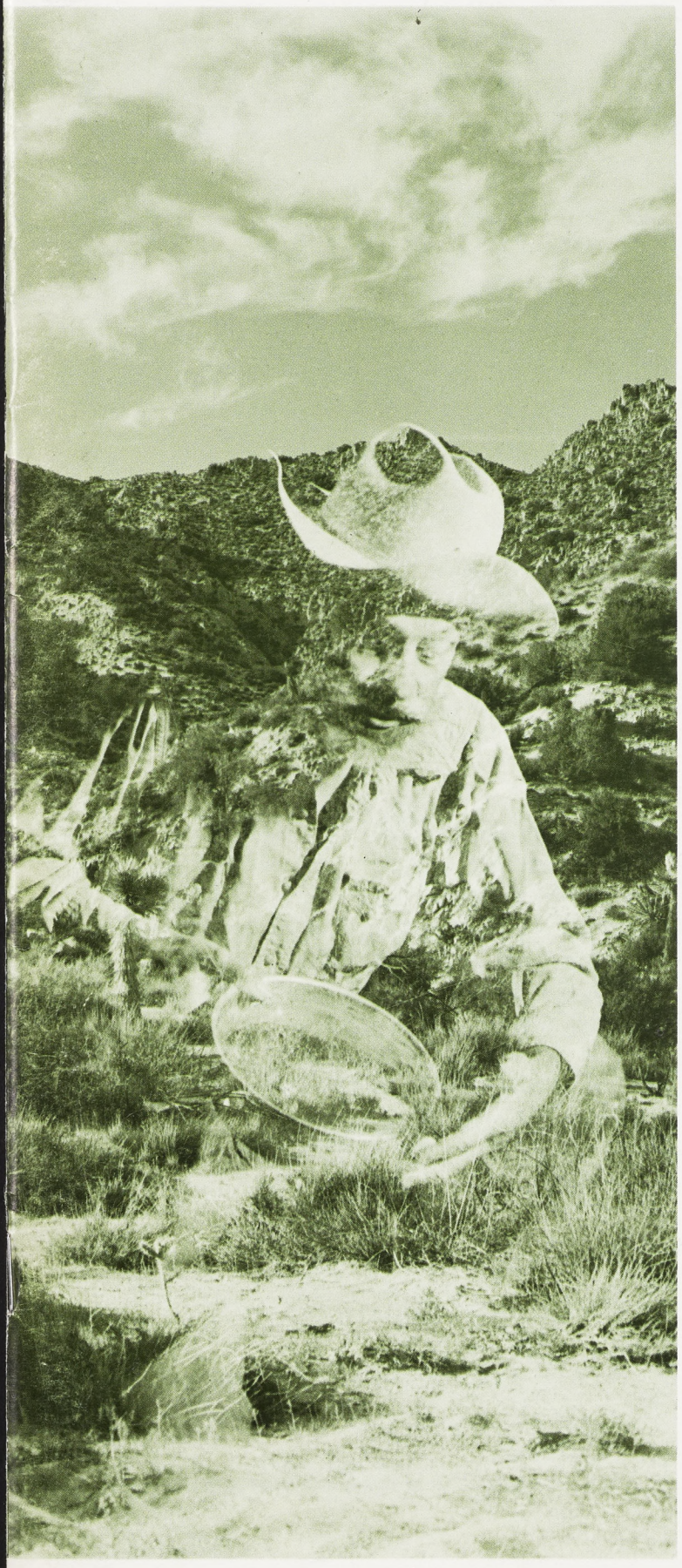

21st Annual

GRUBSTAKE DAYS

MAY 28 - 29 - 30 - 31

1971

YUCCA VALLEY

CALIFORNIA

Sponsored by the
Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce

LANNY MOFFITT
President
Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the 21st Annual Grubstake Days sponsored by the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce. Our little town of approximately 7000 people living at an altitude of 3500 feet, with pure smogless air, promises to give you four wonderful days of fun, entertainment and relaxation.

Besides the various games, contests and tournaments which you may watch or enter, there are many other things to do while you are in the Hi-Desert... such as visiting Desert Christ Park, Pioneertown and the Joshua Tree National Monument. You will also find many fine business establishments where you may browse to your hearts' delight. When you are hungry, you may enjoy the finest of foods at any one of our many restaurants at reasonable prices.

So, as you can see, during your brief stay in our sun drenched city, you can enjoy life to the fullest while enjoying our Grubstake Days celebration, or if you desire, you can relax in a peaceful atmosphere away from the hustle and bustle of your everyday life.

Enjoy yourself and come again.

Sincerely,

Lanny Moffitt

Lanny Moffitt
President
Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce

21st Annual

GRUBSTAKE DAYS

MAY 28 - 29 - 30 - 31

1971

YUCCA VALLEY CALIFORNIA

Ruth Duarte

Carolyn Evans

Copies of this book may be obtained from

Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce

PUBLISHED BY

Hi Desert Books

P. O. Drawer S, Yucca Valley, California 92284

Cover photo by Al Fisher. Back cover photo: The old Stamp Mill at Keys Ranch in the Joshua Tree National Monument.

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Grand Marshal

MONTIE MONTANA, JR.

Montie Montana, Jr., was three days old when he had his first horseback ride, much to the displeasure of the nurses, and at six months he appeared on the stage for the first time at a Will Rogers benefit in Santa Barbara. Ever since then his profession has been a "way of life" for him.

Montie went into the rodeo business when he was three years old and traveled with his parents to more than 40 states, Mexico, Hawaii, and Canada, doing trick roping and riding and showing trick horses.

Graduating from the University of California at Davis as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry, he was sent to Fort Benning and then to Fort Carson, Colorado, as an Entertainment Officer in Special Services. There he was also Riding Academy Officer, giving instructions in Western and English riding, as well as organizing an authentic U. S. Cavalry Drill Platoon.

After his tour of duty, he returned to California to pursue the show business career he had started years earlier. Such shows as "Gunsmoke," "Grand Ole Opry," and the Roy Rogers show are listed among his credits and he has appeared in most of the top rodeos, fairs and parades in the U. S. and Canada and in many foreign countries during the past few years.

In the spring of 1967, Montie headed a group of Cowboys and Indians in Sweden and Belgium for the U. S. Department of Commerce's AMERICA WEEKS promotions. In 1968 he traveled to Spain with his group for another AMERICA WEEKS promotion in Barcelona and Madrid, and again in 1969, he toured Australia. Currently, Montie's show "Rough Riders Wild West," a Western extravaganza, is appearing in many of the major fairs and indoor arenas in the West.

Grubstake Days

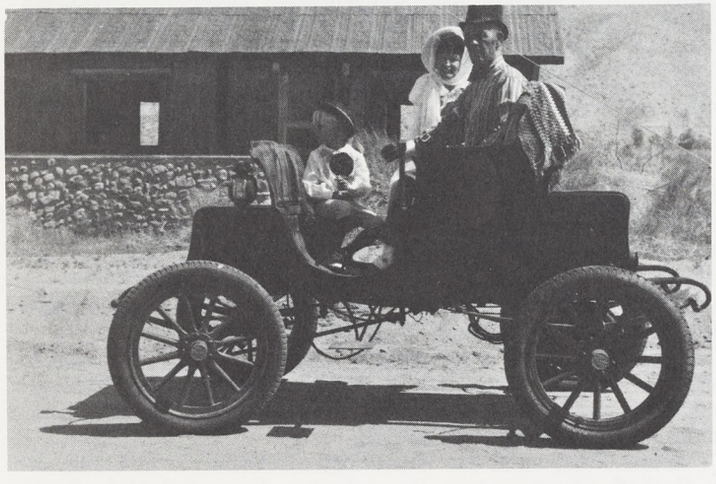
When, in 1951, the Western Mining Council announced it would hold its annual area meeting in Yucca Valley for the fourth consecutive year, the new community turned the affair into an annual celebration. In honor of the Mining Council and to commemorate the early mining history of the high desert, the event was named Grubstake Days. That first Grubstake Days in 1951 was such a success that it has become the most important annual event in Yucca Valley. Each year there is a parade with floats, horse groups, bands, and all the gala trappings of a small town festival. A carnival provides rides and games of skill and chance. Contests and games, dances and exhibits add to the fun and entertainment.

The name Grubstake Days was chosen because ever since a Spanish Queen sold her jewels to finance Columbus in proving his hairbrained theory that the world was round, the grubstake has been an important part of life in the western world . . . particularly along the western frontier as it moved from ocean to ocean.

The Grubstake provided the means for following a dream . . . sometimes only a will o' the wisp . . . sometimes to the once-in-a-lifetime strike. Some grubstakers never learned the fate of their partners. Some became millionaires from their beans and bacon stake.

The story of western mining, from gold to uranium, is filled with grubstakes. But mining has no monopoly on the silent partner who puts up the cash for a new business venture. The grubstake plays just as important a part in big business now as it played in the business of prospecting for gold back in the last century.

Yucca Valley Intermediate School Band, 1967.



Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McAllen and Mark Malin during the 1970 Grubstake Days parade. That's the old schoolhouse in the background.

American Legion float

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Honorary Mayor

Yucca Valley's newly installed Honorary Mayor is no business executive or politician. She is a housewife, content to take the whole community under her wing like a mother hen, and loving every minute of it. This is her second term as Honorary Mayor, and if she surprised everyone when she won the title the first time in 1969, she surprised them even more by coming out on top when the votes were counted in 1970.

When, in 1969, the Chamber of Commerce decided to raise money by having candidates for Honorary Mayor sell tickets for votes, Mama Rose Calvert decided she would help out and threw her hat into the ring. She won by a good margin. So when it was time again for "voting," she was asked to join the new candidates and again help swell the proceeds. She did. She raised $800 with her "dime a vote" tickets. And she was again way out in front when the votes were counted.

But she's going to retire from the mayor's race after her second term. She wants to spend more time at her favorite occupation . . . making cookies for the sick and shut-in, and spreading love and cheer. She raises money for her three favorite organizations: Angel View Crippled Children's Hospital, the Heart Fund and an arthritic foundation. She spends a great deal of time collecting donations for these, taking her cookies and encouragement to hospitals and rest homes and singing at the hospitals, churches and graduations — "when they ask me."

In 1967, when the Calverts were establishing their upholstery business in Yucca Valley, Mama Calvert was still recovering from a near-fatal car accident of several years before.

It had happened when she and her husband were moving to California from Detroit, Michigan. Somewhere in Oklahoma, she says, she was thrown from the overturning car, suffering numerous broken bones. She was told she'd never walk again, but the doctors didn't know her determination.

She soon quit her wheel chair and with the help of crutches, and then canes, she learned to walk. She's still going strong, though the pace is sometimes faster than she would like, especially now that she's Honorary Mayor of Yucca Valley.

The Calverts have one daughter and six grandchildren. One grandson is in Viet Nam and one granddaughter, Becky, sings with the Fred Waring Orchestra.

MAMA ROSE CALVERT

Lanny Moffitt, President of Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce, installs Mama Calvert as Honorary Mayor.

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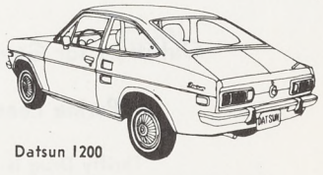

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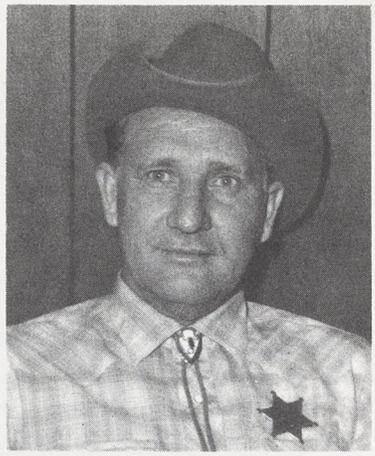
Honorary Sheriff



KEN WATTS

Ken Watts beat out his opponents by a few votes in the 1970 Honorary Sheriff campaign and won the title. He has worn it well for the past year and just to keep his finger in the stew, he's going to get involved again this year as campaign manager for his former rival, Big Roy Smith, who is running a second time.

Ken is manager of Al's Carpets and came to the Hi-Desert when the store was opened in 1969. He had been with Al's Carpets in Anaheim for sixteen years prior to moving out here.

Ken is a native of Fort Smith, Arkansas. His wife, Sandy, is from Missouri. They have three children, Valerie, Wanda and Kenny, all attending Yucca Valley schools.

Ken will give up his title to the winner of the 1971 contest around the middle of May when the votes are counted and the new Honorary Sheriff of Yucca Valley gets his badge of office.

1970 Candidates for Honorary Sheriff of Yucca Valley. Left to right: Roy Smith, Don McDowell, John Morris and Ken Watts.

1971 Candidates For Honorary Sheriff

Al's Carpets is sponsoring Roy Smith for Honorary Sheriff and Ken Watts is his campaign manager. His campaign slogan is "Roy Smith can out-shoot, out-run (and out-lie) anybody in the Hi-Desert."

ROY SMITH

After the votes were counted last Grubstake Days, the gentleman from the deep south missed the coveted title of Yucca Valley's Honorary Sheriff by a chin whisker. This year Roy hopes to stack up more than enough votes to win, but again the race will be a close one and as this feature of Yucca Valley's annual celebration is for the purpose of raising money for the Chamber of Commerce, friends and neighbors enthusiastically take sides and buy votes for their favorite candidate. One windy day this spring big Roy Smith arranged three boxes of blank cartridges on a desk in his office as evidence that he is looking forward to one of them there "shoot 'em up campaigns" you read about. It's all for laughs and money. But the four walls in Roy's office are filled with souvenirs and trophies except for a bare space above his desk. It has been there for nigh onto a year now.

Roy began investing in Hi-Desert land back in 1956 when he built a home at the top of the hill on the Victorville Road. Besides his faith in local properties, Roy brought with him a great zest for living and the knack of lavishing southern hospitality. A good mixer and the life of every party, Roy "pulls his own weight" with the best of them and at barbecues he's usually decked out in apron and chef's cap, presiding over the sizzling steaks. It was over seven years ago that Roy purchased the original Ole Hanson Real Estate building on the corner of Deer Trail and State Highway 62 and hung out his shingle. He enjoys displaying one of Hanson's pamphlets advertising Yucca Valley lots for sale at $400 each—$40 down and $12 a month. Hanson and his son Emery sold real estate here in the early '40's. Much has changed since then, sure enough.

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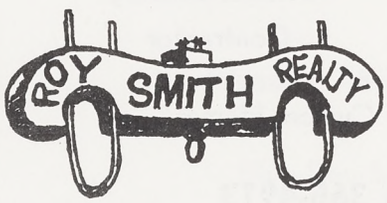

Big Roy Smith

Harry E. Lindley

Associate

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PHONE

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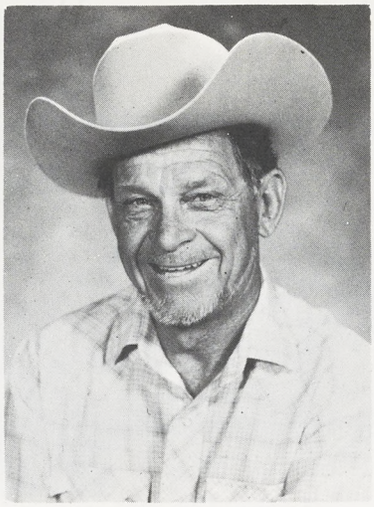
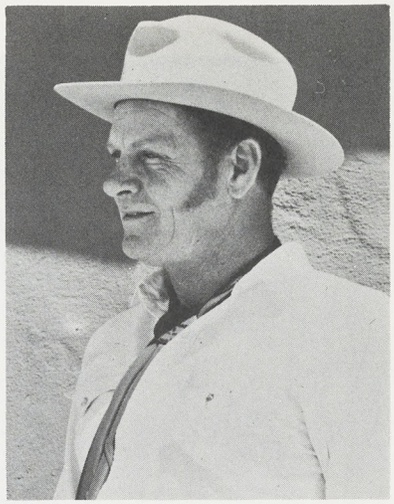
BILL BRINKMAN



PAT HUGHES



Bill Brinkman enters the Honorary Sheriff race with lots of know-how. His father was once a sheriff in North Dakota, Bill's home State. The only difference: his father's lawman adventures were for real, and Bill's will be strictly for fun. He is being sponsored in his campaign by Jellystone Park, where Yogi Bear will give him a big send-off after votes. Ed McClure, owner of the Western Auto store, is Bill's campaign manager.

Some of the planks in his platform are "to put a wall at the east end of town to keep out the wind" and "to bring Palm Springs weather up here in winter and send it back in summer."

Bill owns Barney's Drive-In at the west end of town and works six days a week, twenty hours a day, but he says he'll "strictly enforce the law 'round these parts in his spare time".

Bill and his wife, Joyce, came to the Hi-Desert in 1969.

Besides running for Honorary Sheriff, Bill's hobbies include golf and driving his train. He belongs to the Elks and to the Country Club.

This year's Honorary Sheriff contest would hardly be complete without Pat Hughes' hat in the ring. V. S. (Pat) Hughes is the new owner of the Silver Dollar, built back in the 1940's. Pat is collecting Hi-Desert antiques, which he hangs above the bar. The yarns and tall tales that flow freely there have been printed in a book he calls *The Saga of the Silver Dollar.*

Pat is a likable person. The ex–Marine Master Sergeant and veteran of World War II has spent the lion's share of his life in public service. He and his wife, Patricia Lu, have been married twenty-eight years and have four sons and one daughter. Before coming to Yucca Valley, the Hughes had lived in Imperial Valley for twenty-six years. During this time Pat held the positions of Chief Criminal Investigator in the District Attorney's office and Chief Deputy Coronor in the Sheriff's office. He was also qualified by the State of California Judicial Council to serve as Justice Court Judge. Now that he is an established citizen of Yucca Valley, Pat will tell you he is pledged to serve his community to the best of his ability.

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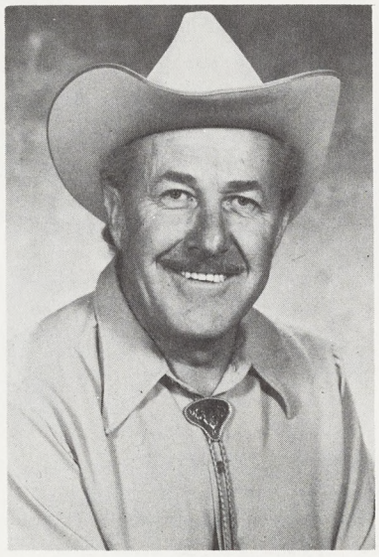
V. S. (PAT) HUGHES

On 29 Palms Hiway, Yucca Valley



RUDY MEIER

Rudy Meier came to the Hi-Desert from Palm Desert, but he's a native of Los Angeles.

He is being sponsored in his race for Honorary Sheriff of Yucca Valley by the Rotary Club. As he tells it, the President of Rotary got up at a meeting recently and announced that he thought that someone in Rotary should run for Honorary Sheriff . . . and inasmuch as Rudy Meier was the only member who owned a pair of western boots, he was being volunteered to run.

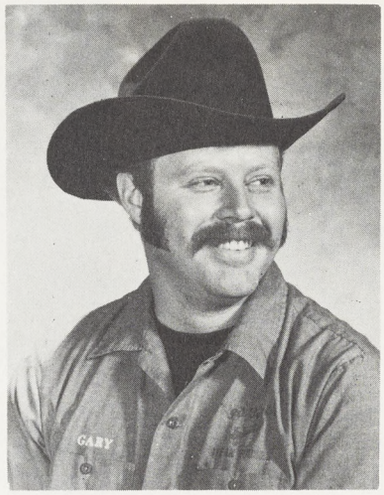
Dick Jones is his campaign manager, and with his help, Rudy expects to come out on top when the votes are counted in May.

Rudy owns the Hi-Lite lighting fixture shop next door to the Post Office. He has worked with lighting fixtures for more than twenty years and likes it. He manufactures many fixtures himself and does custom work.

He and his wife, Dorothy, have four children: Jeff, 25; Brett, 10; and twins, Steven and Susan, 8.

At one time, he was with the Los Angeles Police Department, and he is now a member of the Morongo Basin Sheriff's Posse. The whole family likes to ride. They have their own horses. Rudy and the children will ride in the Grubstake Days' parade.

He plays drums for fun now, but was a professional at one time. Locally, he has played at the Red Dog and the Longhorn since moving to the Hi-Desert.



GARY ALLEN

"Gamblin' Gary" Allen is what his friends call this young man in the black stetson. He wears it firmly set over a shock of red hair and side burns. He's new in Yucca Valley. With his friend, Steve Larrimore, he operates the Red Baron Steak House on the airstrip. Gary is twenty-three and the youngest candidate for Honorary Sheriff this year.

"What do you mean, generation gap?" he asks, "I like everybody!"

He likes his work, too. He has been working in dinner houses for over two years, starting at the Jolly Ox in San Diego, his hometown, and then at Chuck's Steak House in La Jolla. From there he went to Borrego, where he worked for Mark Richards, learning to cook and cut meat. At the Red Baron, he works ten to twelve hours a day, six days a week.

According to Gary, the Red Baron is one of a chain of dinner houses operating near small airports in California. Gary and Steve opened the local one the day after Christmas, 1970, and the Hi-Desert folks, especially Yucca Valley's flying fans, welcome the friendly atmosphere and the handiness to the airport. In atmosphere, the Red Baron takes one back to the days of World War I and the exploits of the original Red Baron, Manfred Richthofen of Prussia, a dare devil ace suddenly popularized in the daydreams of Peanuts' Snoopy dog. It's a youthful place commemorating another age of youth, that of the 17 and 18 year old dogfighters of a past war.

However, Gary thinks young people are scarce on the Hi-Desert.

He was a philosophy major at the University of California and he hopes to find time to complete a course in Business Management soon.

He is sponsored in his race for Honorary Sheriff by the Red Baron Restaurant and his campaign manager is Carol Logan.

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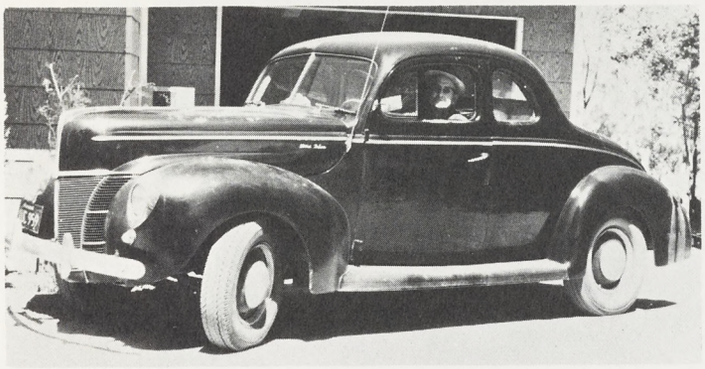
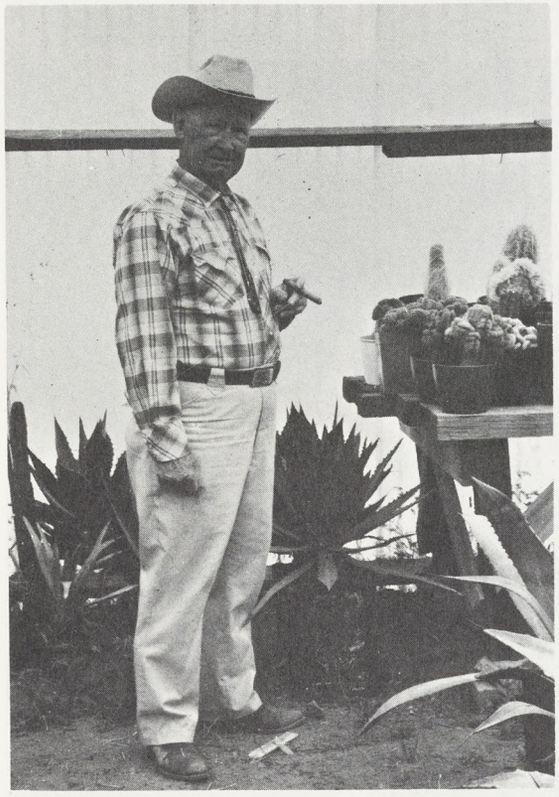
Around Town



Melvin Skare has been driving his 1940 Ford around Yucca Valley for more than ten years. Melvin and his wife, Sophie, came to the Hi-Desert in 1947.



Hugh Dial in his cactus greenhouse. His cactus garden on Deer Trail has many exotic imports as well as California natives. He's also a rock hound and has a beautiful collection of unusual gems and minerals.

Dave and Vaal Eckenroth at their store, Foremost Men's Wear. They are active in youth programs.

Pink Ladies Mrs. Hazel Smith and Mrs. Sue Thomas at the Hi-Desert Hospital Guild Thrift Shop.

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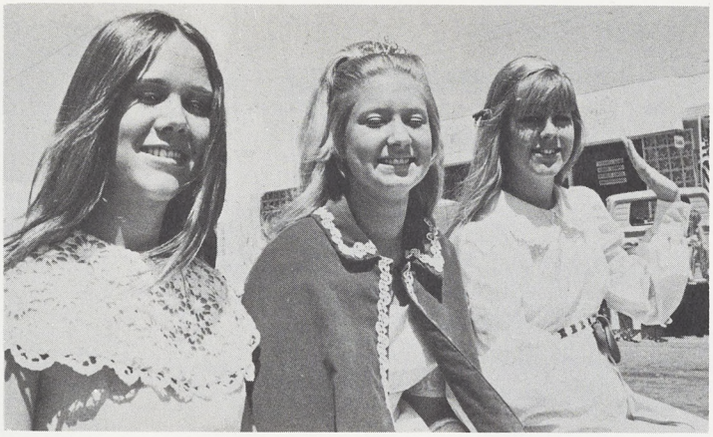
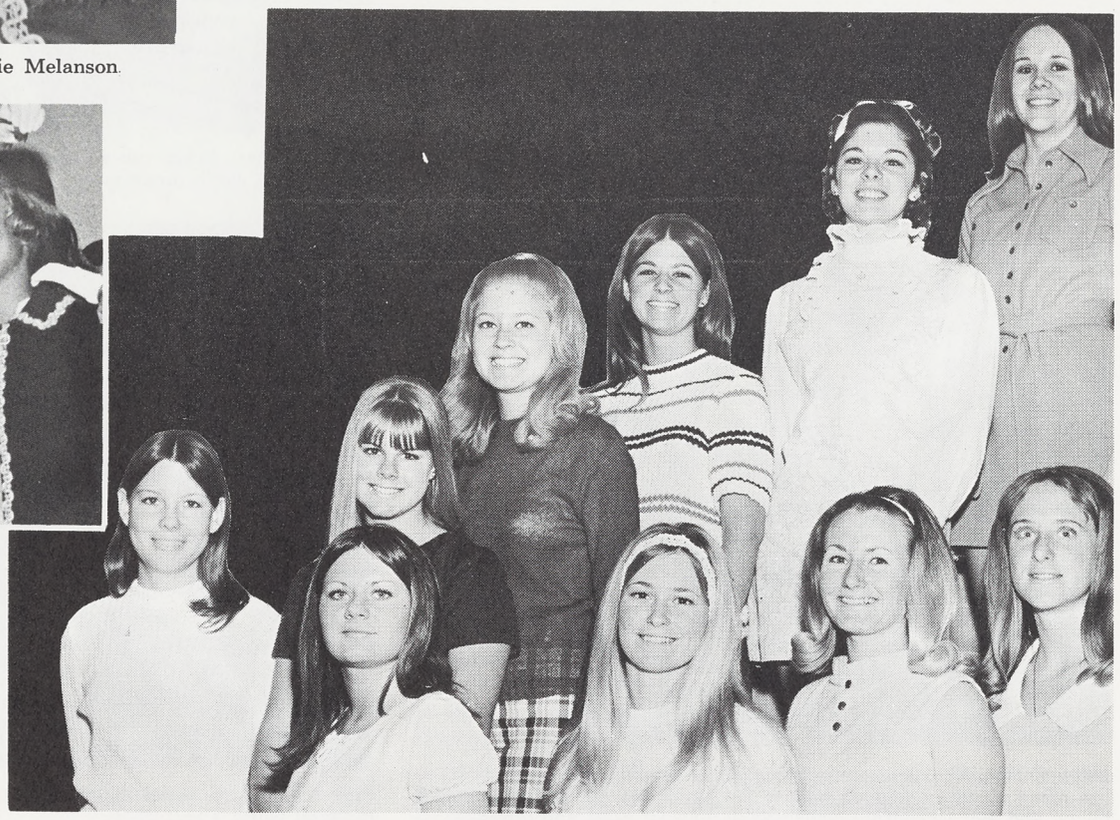
Yucca Valley, Calif.

Yucca Valley Queens

1970 Miss Yucca Valley, Melanie Melanson.



Princess Leslie Bowman, Queen Melanie Melanson, and Princess Diane Briggs in the 1970 Grubstake Days Parade.



Above: Sally Rasmusson, 1969 Queen, crowns Melanie Melanson, 1970 Queen. Left: 1970 Queen contestants: Front row, left to right: Cindy Sjoden, Joy Hanson, Ellena Kay Hulten and Clairesa Ann Cummins. Back row, left to right: Shelly Nordyke, Diane Briggs, Melanie Melanson, Cindy Jo Lenhardt, Marsha Gay and Leslie Bowman. (Photo by Bob Stephenson)

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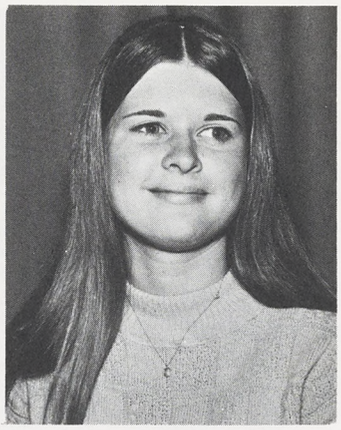
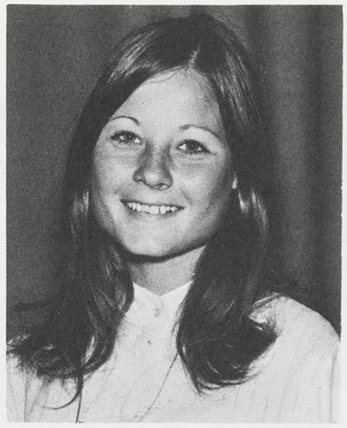
1971 Queen Contestants

One will be crowned
Queen of Yucca Valley
on May 1st

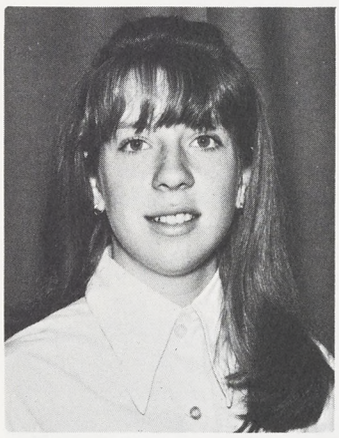


Judy McCracken

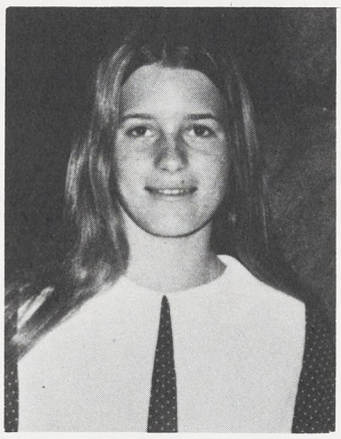


Rose Ann Norton

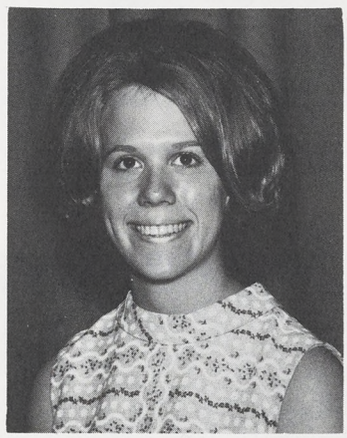
Debi Hill



Cynthia Bennett

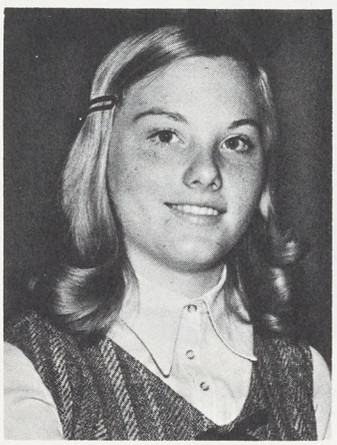


Cindy Pekarovich

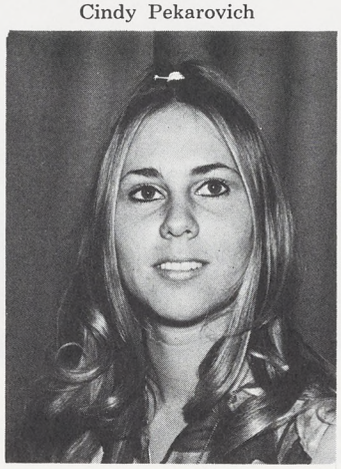


Susan Goodwin

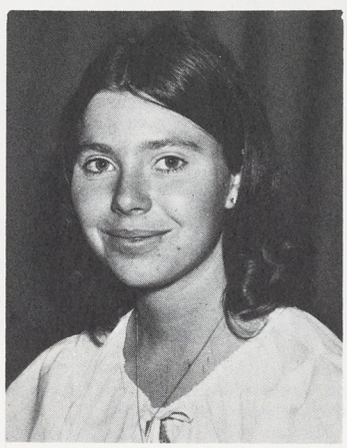
Joyce Peters



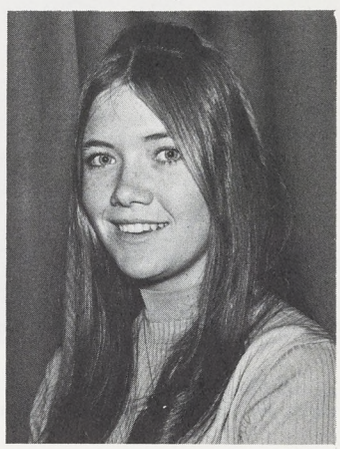
Nancy Patterson



Sherrell Whalen



Eleonore Ilmer



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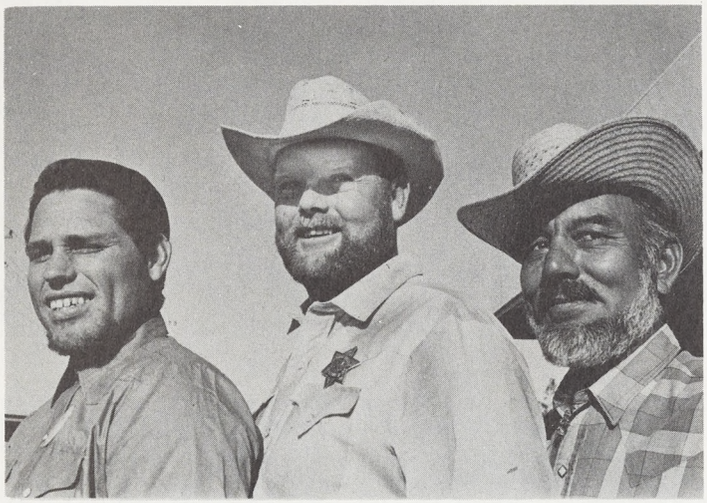

1970 winners of the Whiskerino Contest, left to right: Ed Thornton, puniest beard; George Moorhouse, bushiest beard; and Dario Gonzales, most artistic beard. (Photo by Bob Stephenson)

Horseshoe champion Kamuela Keaupuni, of Yucca Valley, prepares to throw a ringer in 1970 contest.

Beard Contest winners during the first Grubstake Days in 1951. Left to right, Ed Hardesty, Tommy Humphreville and Jack Phoenix.

On the home stretch in the Yucca Valley Grubstake Days "500" Trike Race are Tom Olivera, Allen Erickson, Ron Thompson and Paul Gutierez. (Photo by Bob Stephenson)

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Yucca Valley

In 1881, Chuck Warren, who had settled in Big Morongo Canyon several years before, dug a well in Yucca Valley to provide water for his cattle. The well site, and later, the barn and cabin and windmill built at the well, became known as Warren's Well. To some of the travelers through the valley on their way to and from the gold mines in the Gold Park area and to cattlemen and cowboys, who later drove cattle through the valley, Warren's Well was the name they used for the entire long, narrow valley stretching between the rocky hills to the north and south.

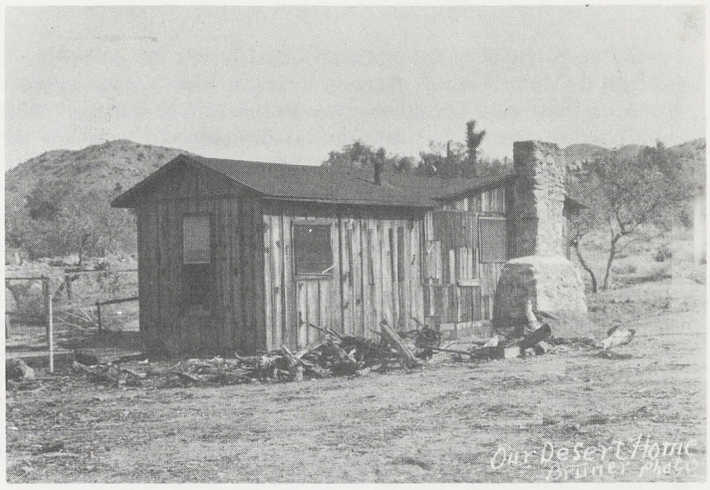
Homesteaders began taking up their 160-acre claims in the early 1900's. By the 1920's, a small fix-it shop had been opened for the convenience of homesteaders all the way from Morongo Valley to Surprise Springs. The shop became a small store in the 1930's supplying desert families with a few of the necessities for homestead living. Mail was left at the store for distribution to families living off the Twenty-nine Palms Road, the single-lane dirt road from Highway 99 to Twentynine Palms.

Social activities like the Saturday night dances were held at nearby Warren's Well. It had the only building large enough to accommodate a square dance.

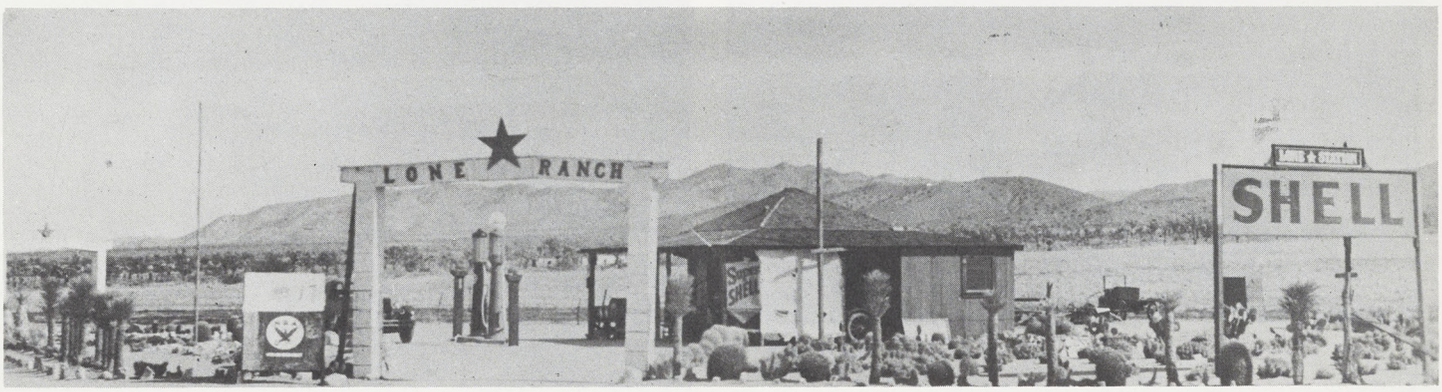
In the 1920's, Walter Harrell moved into the valley and homesteaded across the road from the store. He was from Texas and called his homestead the Lone Star Ranch. He wanted the community to be named Lone Star and for years, it appeared so on some maps.

When the valley began to develop into a community and subdividers moved in to take over some of the homesteads and lay out streets, the valley still went by several names. Many oldtimers still called it "The Tanks" and could remember when the Tanks had been Indian Spring. Cattlemen still called it Warren Well and homesteaders usually referred to it as Yucca Valley. Only Old Man Harrell held out for Lone Star.

The matter of an official name was settled in 1945 when a Post Office was established and the name Yucca Valley chosen.



First homestead cabin of the Redden family. 1923.



The Lone Star Ranch when Hugh and Dorothy Dial visited it in 1933.

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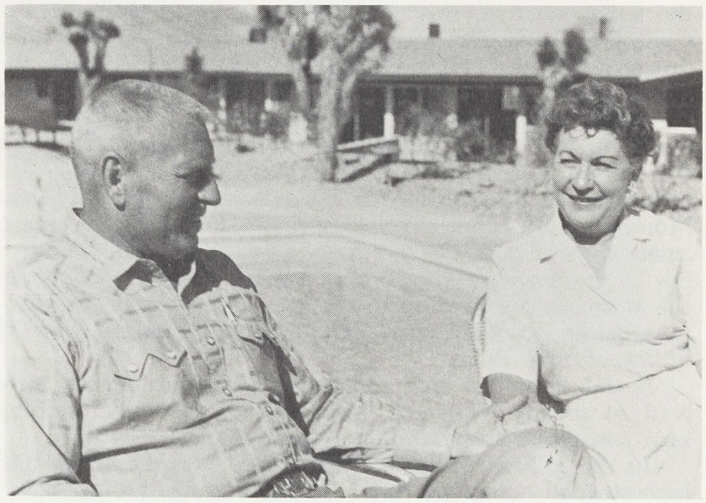
PIONEER FAMILY

Alma Katje was a very small girl when her parents, Joseph and Mary Heard, moved to their Yucca Valley homestead in 1910, and the place has been home to her ever since. That her husband, the late Art Katje, loved the valley also is evident by his faith in its progress and his tireless efforts as a realtor to promote schools, business developments and a united group of leaders who could see the unlimited possibilities of the land. Though it has been several years since he fell from a fatal heart attack while hunting in the hills above the original Heard Homestead, his plans and dreams for Yucca Valley's future have been faithfully carried out by his wife. She is now nearing the climax of her accomplishments since Art's death by developing a new and exclusive trailer village at the west end of Yucca Valley on her property directly across the street from the Blue Skies Country Club and Golf Course. According to Alma, it is a $400,000 project with space for 110 large trailer homes.

Since her husband had been the first president of the YV C of C, Alma is an active member of the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce and recently had charge of the lighted welcome sign at the west entrance to Yucca Valley.

A modern town has grown on the homestead acres where her father's grain fields used to be. It is claimed that Joseph Heard raised the same kind of winter hard wheat that is so popular in Montana and the Dakotas. The Katjes' only daughter, Barbara, is the wife of John Gronek. They have three children. The oldest, Steven Gronek, was an honor student in the first graduating class at the Yucca Valley High School. The day Alma Katje met Mamie Eisenhower for lunch in Palm Springs they both agreed they had something in common — a fourth generation family in the old hometown, though the towns were far apart.



Art and Alma Katje

Dennis Lilley at his store and gas pump, the first store in Yucca Valley. 1934.

Warren's Well in 1958.

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Art Miller, owner of Western Hills Estates and Ranchos, in the Grubstake Days Parade, 1967.

HYDROPONICS IN THE HI-DESERT

Because of the quality of the water in the Hi-Desert, plus the smog- and fog-free climate, it seems to be just the right locality for large-scale hydroponic gardening. Facilities for two hydroponic operations have been started here . . . one in Joshua Tree and one in Yucca Valley.

The Joshua Tree complex will be located on a 160-acre property on Highway 62. The company plans to install 6,000,000 square feet of buildings on the property.

The Yucca Valley company is on Church Street. It will complete eight buildings in the initial installation.

Hydroponics is the cultivation of plants in water containing dissolved inorganic nutrients, rather than in soil. The buildings housing the gardens provide controlled climatic conditions necessary for year-round farming. The plants are grown in gravel beds in vinyl lined concrete trenches which hold the water and nutrients.

Production is high in hydroponic gardening and the quality of the vegetables is superior since the plants are protected from disease, insects and adverse weather conditions.

NEW TREND IN SUBDIVISIONS

A new type of subdivision is planned for Yucca Valley. Circle K Realty and Ernest and Fern Krafft are cooperating in the new Yucca Park Estates on the south side of town. Forty-three homes are being planned in the subdivision which will have wide streets and underground utilities. The house will be especially designed to withstand the stress and strain of earthquakes and sonic booms.

Another environmental first for the Hi-Desert will be the new Indian Hills Mobile Park designed to enhance the natural beauty of the locality. This new facility will be a condominium, own your own space, park, with grounds and facilities designed to provide luxury living in a mobile home.

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PIONEER PASS GOLF CHALLENGE

Golfers in the Hi-Desert go through a metamorphosis in early Autumn and along about the second or third week in October they turn out in droves for the Pioneer Pass Golf Challenge, the world's zaniest golfing contest. Even after twelve years, some of the veteran Pioneer Pass golfers can hardly believe it's for real. For the newcomer to the contest, its unbelievably unreal.

Now sponsored by the Pioneer Loop Association, the Pioneer Pass Golf Challenge is a contest of golfing skill and physical endurance. The Challenge consists of an eighteen-hole round of golf at the Blue Skies Country Club golf course preceded by a two-day trek down eighteen miles of rugged desert-mountain country from Big Bear to Yucca Valley while playing the infamous 19th Hole.

The 19th Hole (only playable one and longest one in the world) consists of a series of check points along the Pioneer Pass Road (unpaved and single lane). The contestants must hole-in at each check point from Big Bear to Yucca Valley, actually sinking the ball into a cup only at the Blue Skies Country Club on the last lap of the game.

The check points are marked circles into which the player must land his ball before teeing off toward, hopefully, the next check point.

The 1970 Challenge had mostly local winners, perhaps the good desert life pays off for golfers, too. A Flight (handicap) was won by Eddie Hardesty, his fifth win in as many years. Gene Hardesty took second place.

B Flight (Calloway) was won by George Moorhouse. Bill Toy won first place in the Junior Flight, and Lucy Trichine took first honors in the Women's Flight.

AL FISHER

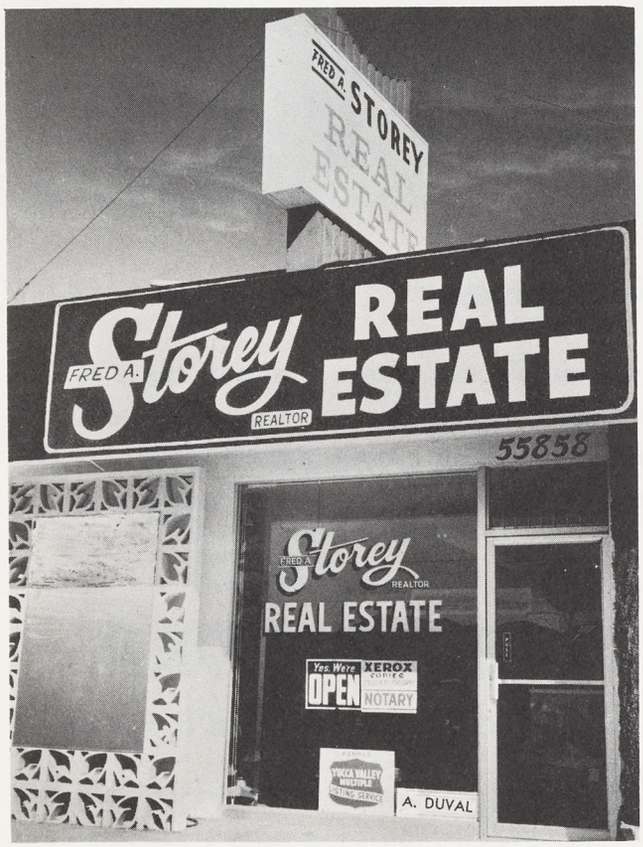
Al and Helen Fisher have lived in Yucca Valley for eighteen years and for fifteen of those years, Al has been associated with Fred A. Storey Realty.

Al hails from London, England, and Helen is from Quebec, Canada. Before coming to the Hi-Desert, Al was a publisher's representative and photographer for sixteen years, traveling all over the United States. Al took the cover photograph of the ghost of the old timer. Bob Wadle posed as the prospector. The photo was originally made for the cover of the 1957 Grubstake Days program book.

Al has been active in the Yucca Valley Players group from its beginning. Both he and Helen have take part in or worked on many Players productions.

Al's other love has been the Pioneer Pass Golf Challenge. He was president of PPGC for two years, 1961 and 1962, and made many of the publicity photos for the annual event.

Valeria Bradshaw and Alfred Fisher in the Yucca Valley Players' production, "The Brat."



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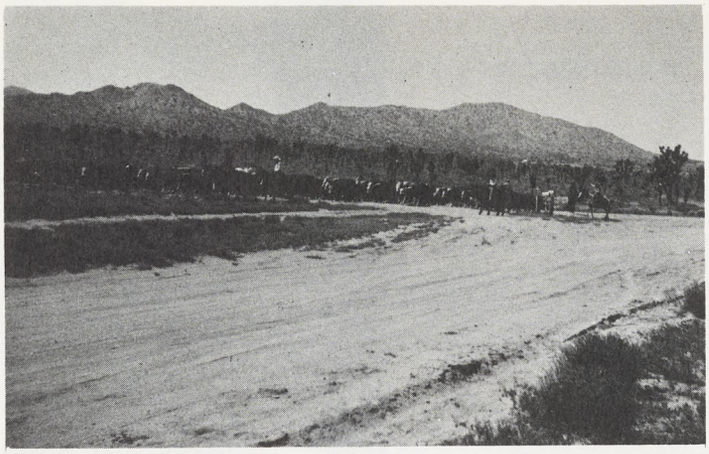

A cattle drive through Yucca Valley in the 1930's. The photo shows the intersection of Twentynine Palms Highway and Old Woman Springs Road. The last cattle drive through Yucca Valley was in 1947.

Clowns are a favorite part of every Grubstake Days Parade.

Antone Martin beside the statue of Christ in Desert Christ Park.

Grubstake Days Art Exhibit in Triangle Park.

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STOREY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

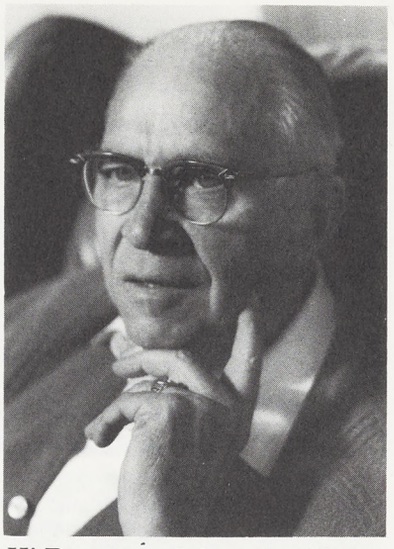
The Yucca Valley Park and Recreation District purchased a little more than twenty acres of land from Fred A. Storey in 1969 for the proposed community center. An additional fifteen-plus acres is being added to the site to provide adequate park and recreation facilities for Yucca Valley.

The center will be located just north of the highway and west of Old Woman Springs Road, providing centrally placed recreation facilities.

The center will include three buildings housing the County Branch Library, the Hi-Desert Museum and the Community Center Building which will have space for the Park and Recreation District office, a large community multi-purpose room, craft and meeting rooms, a small kitchen and a lounge.

The grounds will include an area for a native botanical garden maintained by the museum.

The District has eight park sites to fulfill the needs of a growing community. Best known of these is Desert Christ Park against the hills north of town. This small park contains the Biblical statues and architectural works of Antone Martin, many of them made on the site. Desert Christ Park was started in 1951 and was presented to the Yucca Valley Park and Recreation District for permanent protection and preservation after Mr. Martin's death in 1961. The Park is open to the public with no admission charge.



Fred A. Storey, one of the first subdividers in Yucca Valley.

HI-DESERT MUSEUM

Yucca Valley's Hi-Desert Nature Museum is a little gem of nature lore. During Grubstake Days weekend, visitors to the Museum may see the oil paintings of Sally Green, who specializes in historical scenes, many of Pioneertown, as well as of old mines and ghost towns.

Also on display will be the wildflower specimens in bloom at that time. Other wild-life exhibits include some small animals of the Hi-Desert such as pack rats, mice, chipmunks (the antelope ground squirrel) and squirrels. There are also some representatives of Hi-Desert reptiles including "Moses," the 100-year-old Desert Tortoise, who makes the museum his home. There are insect collections as well as some live specimens, for the bug-watchers.

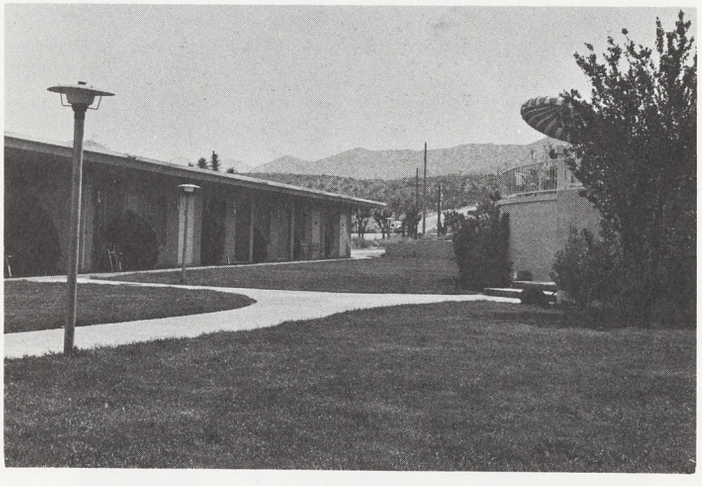
A new display is the collection of animal tracks, a fascinating group of casts made from actual footprints.

Of special interest to rockhounds are the mineral and crystal collections including showy selenite and amethyst crystals. Shell collectors will be interested in the large number of both common and unusual shells displayed.

There are many local Indian artifacts in the museum and a recent addition to the exhibits is a pioneer and mining collection. This includes many relics from the homesteads and mines of the Hi-Desert, and is a fascinating group of mementos.

Youngsters are always facinated by the birdnest collection. There are nests and eggs of the local Gambel Quail and Mountain Quail, Roadrunner, Linnets, Sparrow Hawks, Cactus Wren and Sparrow, as well as such oddities as thrre-story nests and nests built in unusual objects.

One display is a complete Bluejay nest and next to it, a collection of all the materials used in a Bluejay nest. It delights the visitor who has always thought of a bird nest as a bunch of woven grass and twigs.



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GRUBSTAKE DA

Friday, May 28

8:00 a.m. Chamber of Commerce Kick-Off Breakfast at The Glen Restaurant. $1.75 per person. 1971 Honorary Sheriff will be presented.

10:00 a.m. Carnival opens. Next door to Bank of America. Tickets for rides sold on the grounds.

1:00 p.m. Hi-Desert Nature Museum opens. Desert wildlife displays, art, mineral and Indian exhibits. At Hi-Desert Park, Hopi and Onaga Trails. Open until 5:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. Junior Desert Life Show. Boy Scout Building, corner Wamego and Yucca Trails. Open 'til 5:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m. Whiskerino Contest, Security Pacific Bank Parking Lot.

6:00 p.m. Industrial Exhibits in Multi-Purpose Room, Yucca Valley Elementary School, Pueblo and Hopi Trails.

7:00 p.m. Film Festival at the Multi-Purpose Room, Yucca Valley Elementary School, Pueblo and Hopi Trails.

8:00 p.m. Square Dancing at Yucca Valley High School Multi-Purpose Room, Onaga Trail and Sage Ave. Door prizes to dancers.

8:15 p.m. Play, "The Good Ship Humidor," by the Yucca Valley Players at Burnt Mountain Dude Ranch. $2.00 per person.

Saturday, May 29

6:00 a.m. Lions Pancake Breakfast at the Elks Club, Yucca Trail across the street from Triangle Park. $1.50 per person.

9:30 a.m. Balloon Ascent over parade route.

10:00 a.m. Carnival opens. Next door to Bank of America. Tickets for rides sold on the grounds.

10:00 a.m. Junior Desert Life Show. Boy Scout Building, corner Wamego and Yucca Trails. Open 'til 5:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m. Hi-Desert Nature Museum opens. Desert wildlife displays, art, mineral and Indian exhibits. At Hi-Desert Park, Hopi and Onaga Trails. Open until 5:00 p.m.

10:30 a.m. Parade. Starts at Fox Trail and Twentynine Palms Highway. Ends at Palm Ave.

1:00 p.m. American Legion Pit Bar-B-Q Lunch at the American Legion Hall. $1.50 per person.

1:00 p.m. Art Festival opens in Triangle Park. Displays and demonstrations.

1:00 p.m. Montie Montana, Jr., Indian Show at Jellystone Park Horse Arena. $1.25 per person.

1:00 p.m. Grubstake Days Bushwhacker Bowling Tournament at The Bowl, Balsa Ave. and Twentynine Palms Highway. Charge: $3.50 for 3 lines (1 ball tournament). Entry blanks available at the Bowling Alley.

1:30 p.m. Yucca Valley Home and Garden Tour sponsored by the Yucca Valley Garden Club. $1.00 per person. Tickets available at Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce.

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DAYS PROGRAM

2:00 p.m. Balloon Ascent at the Yucca Valley High School Athletic Field.
2:30 p.m. Trophies and Ribbons for Parade winners awarded at the Yucca Valley High School Athletic Field.
6:00 p.m. Industrial Exhibits in Multi-Purpose Room, Yucca Valley Elementary School, Pueblo and Hopi Trails.
7:00 p.m. Film Festival at the Multi-Purpose Room, Yucca Valley Elementary School, Pueblo and Hopi Trails.
8:00 p.m. Square Dancing in the Yucca Valley High School Multi-Purpose Room. Door prizes to dancers.
8:15 p.m. Play, "The Good Ship Humidor," by the Yucca Valley Players at Burnt Mountain Dude Ranch. $2.00 per person.

Sunday, May 30

10:00 a.m. Carnival opens. Next door to Bank of America. Tickets for rides sold on the grounds.
10:00 a.m. Junior Desert Life Show. Boy Scout Building, corner Wamego and Yucca Trails. Open 'til 5:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. Horseshoe Contest Semi-Finals at Hi-Desert Park Horse Arena. 50¢ per contestant.
1:00 p.m. Montie Montana, Jr., Indian Show at Jellystone Park Horse Arena. $1.25 per person.
1:00 p.m. Grubstake Days Bushwhacker Bowling Tournament at The Bowl, Balsa Ave. and Twentynine Palms Highway. Charge: $3.50 for 3 lines (1 ball tournament). Entry blanks available at the Bowling Alley.
1:00 p.m. Hi-Desert Nature Museum opens. Desert wildlife displays, art, mineral and Indian exhibits. At Hi-Desert Park, Hopi and Onaga Trails. Open until 5:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. Yucca Valley "500" (Trike Race) at the Yucca Valley High School Athletic Field. 50¢ entry fee per contestant.
2:15 p.m. Greased Pole Contest at the Yucca Valley High School Athletic Field. 50¢ entry fee per contestant.
3:00 p.m. Pie Baking and Pie Eating Contest at the Yucca Valley High School Athletic Field. 50¢ entry fee per contestant.
7:30 a.m. Yucca Valley Grubstake Days Golf Tournament at the Blue Skies Country Club. $5.00 plus green fees per player.

Monday, May 31

9:30 a.m. Memorial Day Services at Evangelical Church Amphitheatre next to Desert Christ Park. Sponsored by local veterans' organizations.
10:00 a.m. Carnival opens. Next door to Bank of America. Tickets for rides sold on the grounds.
10:00 a.m. Junior Desert Life Show. Boy Scout Building, corner Wamego and Yucca Trails. Open 'til 5:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. Horseshoe Contest Finals at Hi-Desert Park, Fox and Onaga Trails.
1:00 p.m. Grubstake Days Bushwhacker Bowling Tournament at The Bowl, Balsa Ave. and 29 Palms Highway. Charge: $3.50 for 3 lines (1 ball tournament). 70% handicap. Entry blanks available at Bowling Alley.

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Joshua Tree

By Mary Ford

Joshua Tree, western gateway to the Joshua Tree National Monument, was first planned by Lacey and Company in 1937. Frank H. and Donald Ayers formed a corporation, the "Joshua Tree Townsite Company," shortly afterward and set up offices in the desert area along the Twentynine Palms road. Frank Batters, who had been with the original developers, stayed on with the Ayers group as real estate salesman and water manager.

During the war, gas rationing prevented the growth of far-out desert areas, and most of the people who were living in the high desert before the end of the war were homesteaders or health-seekers.

Chester Bunker, his wife and son, William, moved to Joshua Tree in 1942. Charles and Sarah Mitchell came with them. Bunker went into the real estate business, Mitchell working as his salesman. Sarah helped organize the Women's Club.

Jack and Helen Branthoover and Colonel E. B. Moore and the Bathe Construction Co. all arrived in Joshua Tree just after World War II.

The Whitehorn Ranch, which had been started years earlier, was completed and had a swimming pool. Ray and Jean Rees became the managers until the Willeys took it over. Nellie Willey became the Woman's Club president in the early 1950's.

John Duncan moved to Joshua Tree in 1944 and is still active in real estate.

Fred Moninger, an architect, opened a designing and drafting service. Most of the buildings in Pioneertown were designed by him, with plenty of Old West flavor. He brought interested tourists from Los Angeles and San Diego out to Joshua Tree where they would be put up for the weekend at Aunt May Hibbard's, who served them good country meals. Aunt May had built her home in the early forties, and was anxious to get neighbors.

Coulter's Guest House . . . "apartments with homelike atmosphere" . . . was built soon after. The building now houses the *Joshua Journal* and is owned by Bert and Leona Gholson.

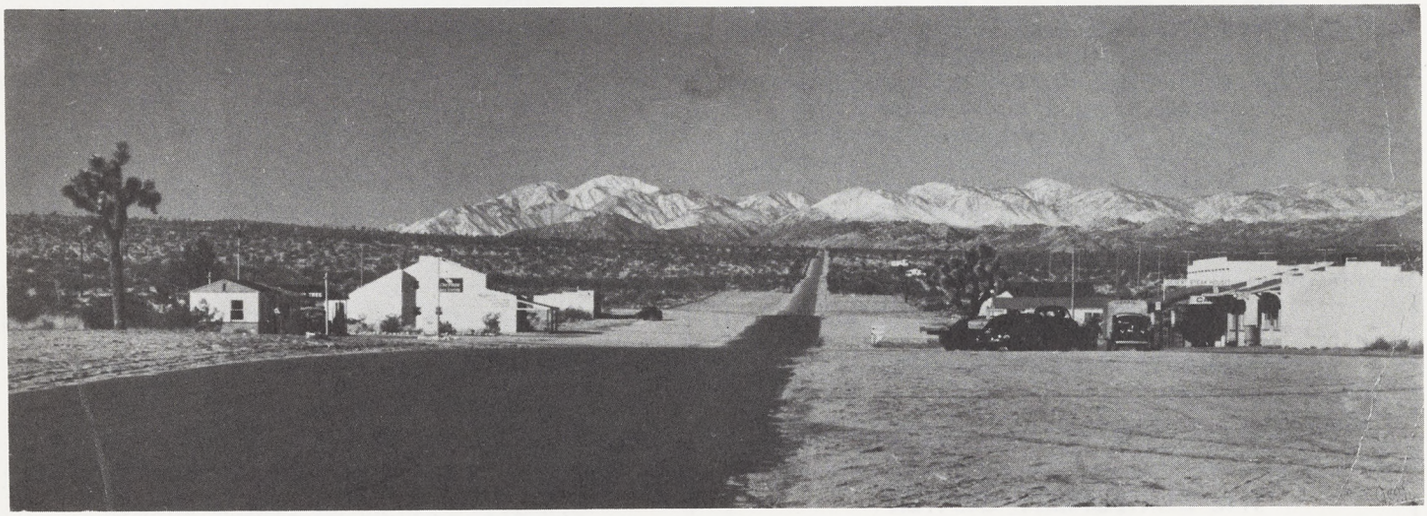
Mary Ford moved to Joshua Tree in 1946. She now has the Ford's Lodge, a convalescent home.

Chris Sorensen opened the Joshua Tree Barber Shop. He had come to Joshua Tree to retire, but the demand for his services soon put him back to work.

About 1946, Fred and Nan Marble bought the Evans Electric Company. The Marbles now live in Yucca Valley. Fred was pitcher on the first Cub baseball team started in 1946-47.

Dr. Louis Sinclair and his wife, Sally, moved to Joshua Tree for the climate. He was a chiropractor and had an office in his home.

Joe Kasal and his wife, Maggie, opened the Standard service station. They came to the desert for Joe's health. The station was soon headquarters for much of the town's activities. He stocked groceries and had the one pay telephone in town. There was a bench near the phone where customers could sit and visit while waiting to make their calls. Mac McGill took orders for ice and hauled it from Banning in an



Joshua Tree in 1946.

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old open truck. Often the fifty-pound chunks that were ordered had melted to thirty pounds by the time they were delivered. Joe Kasal also carried kerosene for lamps (there was no electricity) and propane tanks.

Harold and Dee Jost bought the Cranes Building Supplies. They were from Banning and came to the desert for the health of their youngest son. Grandma Stacey and Dennis Jost now manage the Twentynine Palms store and Doug Sheppard is the manager of the Joshua Tree Builders Supply.

According to the first issue of the *Joshua Journal* newspaper, printed September 6, 1945, there were twelve businesses in Joshua Tree. The newspaper was owned by Chester Bunker and edited by Stewart Gear. Alice Powell Beckford wrote a column for the paper. Maude A. Fox also was a reporter. She and her husband started the first nursery. They retired to Yucaipa in 1954.

In September, 1945, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Rice opened the first cafe in Joshua Tree. Mrs. Rice featured homemade pies. They had been coming to the desert for fifteen years so they were considered old-timers.

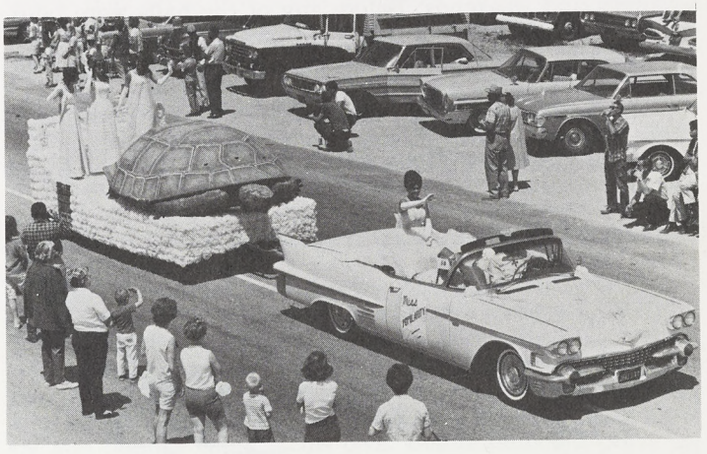
Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Becker built a variety store in 1943. Mrs. Becker started a lending library. In 1946, they moved to Yucca Valley where they built another variety store. That building now houses Foremost Men's Wear, owned by Dave and Vaal Eckenroth.

Bud and Bea Lyday built a grocery store in Joshua Tree in 1945-46. They later sold the store to Hubert and Grace Aldridge.

Grace arranged a corner of the store as a Post Office and was Postmaster. Mail was brought out from Banning. The Post Office soon outgrew its space in the store and was moved to a building at the corner of Sunset and the Hiway, where it stayed for the next ten years until a new Post Office building was constructed in its present location. Grace was Postmaster until she retired in 1969. She is now president of the Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the Turtle Race Association.

Next to the grocery store was the second cafe in Joshua Tree. It was owned and operated by the Laughlins. Bertie Laughlin's brother, Charley Cotton, moved another well

1971 Turtle Race Queen and Court: Elena Warren, Princess; Paulette Robinson, Queen; and Paula McCormick, Princess.



The Queen and her court in the 1967 Turtle Races Parade. Riding in the car is Pat Luersen, Miss Popularity, and behind the turtles are, left to right, Princess Debbie Clark, Queen Kathy Murphy and Princess Janet Gholson.

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drilling outfit into Joshua Tree. The Laughlins sold their cafe to the Allens. Beulah Allen served four years as a School Board Trustee. They sold the cafe to Mr. and Mrs. William Longshaw, who had already purchased the store next door. The present market, taking up the whole building, is owned by William and Gloria Amrine.

Gerald and Millie Pappendick and their small daughter came to Joshua Tree about 1946. They were both active in civic affairs. He is a contractor and still lives in Joshua Tree.

In 1945, Commander Jeff Overbay and a group of Legionaires started building a Legion Hall. Before it was completed, money and donated labor became scarce, and Jeff's health slowed him down. The Sportsman's Club had started so the American Legion turned over the unfinished building to the Club for $1.00. The building was to be used for community affairs. The children's Christmas plays and town dances were held there. Johnnie Arch and Elinore Fairbanks played for the dances. The hall was also used to house extra school classrooms when the first school became too small. The hall is now used by the Playhouse Guild as their Cabaret Theatre. The grounds are the site of the annual Turtle Races.

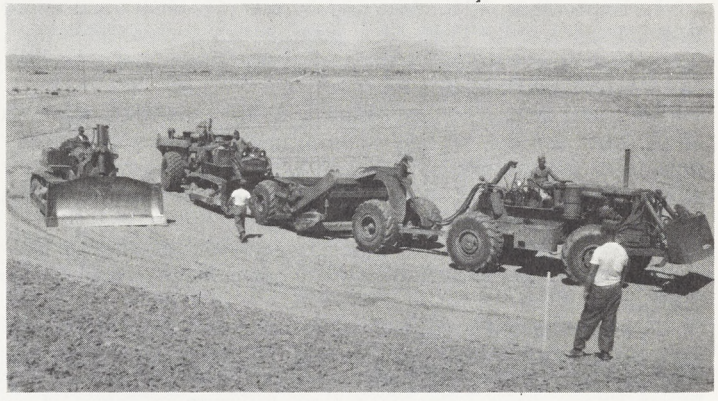
The Institute of Mentalphysics started building on their site just west of Joshua Tree. Dr. and Mrs. Dingle and their daughter, Gloria, had their own horses and joined in many of the local riding events. Much of the native rock in their buildings was mined by Zeke Coffin and Larry Grey.

Zeke and Larry played guitar and piano for the dances evenings and weekends. Before any of the halls were built, dances were held on the porch in front of the Post Office, or in any new home with a cement floor. The owners would hold open house and the whole town would turn out.

The Joshua Tree Cub Baseball Team was formed with every ablebodied man in town trying out. Claude Irwin was the first coach. Later, Hubert Aldridge was coach. Bob and Patty Garry were just married and were the managers of the new Shell station. Bob was third baseman.

Gus Ojala was catcher. Tommy Humphreville and another player from Yucca Valley joined the team. The first year they won the cup from Twentynine Palms. There were always plenty of rooters in the grandstand and in the cars parked around the field. They took up collections to buy baseball suits and pay expenses.

In July, 1946, the Chamber of Commerce raised $1500 to start a new temporary school building. The Joshua Tree Community Association took over the project. Mrs. Beard, Mrs. Ojala and Mrs. Lyday canvassed the whole town for donations of money and labor. The building was ready for use when school opened in September. There were forty-five students and one teacher . . . elderly and small. The kids could get pretty noisy and unruly, and were getting away with it. Curley Herbst, a local builder and ex-paratrooper, was conscripted as an "extra" teacher. The first time the kids started getting out of hand, Curley yelled "Shut up!"



Marines from the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base excavated the lake areas at Copper Mountain Lake-Park.

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at them and from then on there was discipline.

A PTA was organized with Johnnie Beard as president, Mary Ojala, secretary-treasurer, and Alma Lee as historian.

Bert and Johnnie Beard and their two children had moved to Joshua Tree for their daughter's health. She was asthmatic. Anna Lea Beard grew up strong and healthy and in 1958 was chosen queen of the Turtle Races. Eunice King was the first queen.

Jack S. Raub, a surveyor, and his wife had built their home on Mt. View. In 1946 they sold it to Gus and Mary Ojala. Gus was a welder, working with Jack Mills, well driller.

Later the Ojalas bought the welding business from Roger Clark, and Mary Ojala started the first beauty shop in Joshua Tree. Since there was no electricity, the women getting their hair shampooed or set were grateful for the desert sunshine to dry it.

About this time Cliff Sufdy brought his well drilling equipment to the desert and opened an office. He still maintains his headquarters in Joshua Tree.

In 1948 the new temporary school building was too small for all the youngsters in Joshua Tree, even with double sessions. The Sportsmen's Hall was called into service and classes were held there. A new school had been built in Yucca Valley and when the school district was consolidated, all students attended school in Yucca Valley and Twentynine Palms. Then, in 1958 a beautiful elementary school was built just north of Sportsman's Hall in Joshua Tree.

The Joshua Tree Women's Club was federated in 1947.

Ida and Bill Boyce bought the grocery store on Center Street and oprated it for almost twenty years. When they retired, they sold it to Dennis Murphy, who is now with the Circle K Markets. James Shearn added two buildings. One housed Helen Gearhardt's Variety Store.

John Basset built a drug store but there was no pharmacist available and it was bought by Jerry Shaeffer and became Jerry's Cafe. It is now owned by Johnnie Erreca, who added a cocktail lounge.

Another drug store was built in Joshua Tree, but there was still no pharmacist. It was first used as a shop and is now Arturo's Mexican Restaurant.

Back in 1946 a tourist asked a land company salesman what the local people did for excitement. "Why," he answered, "we race turtles!"

So Joshua Tree held its first Turtle Races along the side of the highway where travelers could stop awhile and join in the fun. The Races are now an annual event held on the first weekend in May.

Morongo Valley

From the beginning of this century visitors have enjoyed the secluded shade and cool waters of the Big and Little Morongos. The Morongo Lodge evolved sometime during the Twenties from the need for a place to accommodate "lungers. In the early twenties Mr. Geils' Morongo Inn was built of native rock. A few years later for the same reason, the Livingstone Guest Ranch grew up along the southern hills, started in 1924, by Frank Livingstone, his wife, Clara, and their small son, Frank, Jr. Frank and his brother, Al, worked at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, and added to the buildings of the popular guest ranch in Morongo as time allowed. In the 1930's, Sherman Shady Springs in the Big Morongo Canyon began a long and colorful history of hunting parties, garden produce and city guests. Back in the dry Morongo was Hofstetter's Canyon House. After the road was blacktopped in 1935, Chandler and Mary White laid plans for their Roadrunner Trailer Village, which has since become the Shangri La for many senior citizens during the winter months and the permanent home of desert lovers.

Near the Post Office is the Mobile Manor Trailer Park developed in the 1950's by Lillie and Francis Callahan. The Golden Age Club building was also built in the '50's by a group of senior citizens, and here the regular Chamber of Commerce breakfasts are held as well as the Wednesday night card parties and other social events. An Art Colony displays local paintings in the Covington Park buildings where they serve free coffee to guests. In the same building that houses the new fire trucks is the "smallest library in the largest county." Tucked away at the southern extremity of the Little Morongo Canyon are three private lakes belonging to the McKinney Ranch. The elder McKinney homesteaded there in 1912. He was a well driller and well locator by trade. The McKinney children attended the first school in the area and through the years the McKinney family has developed into a clan who meet at the ranch every year for a barbecue reunion where new in-laws and additional babies are welcomed.

The most recent enterprise in Morongo Valley is the attractive Coin and Stamp Shop, opened February 7, 1971, by Delphia and Emory Tipton. The Tiptons have four sons. The oldest came to Morongo as a guest of Elvira Clift and her family who live on North Star Trail. He could hardly wait until he was old enough to file on a five-acre claim nearby and build a cabin of his own. Before he could prove up on the claim he joined the armed forces and Mama finished out his time on the tract. Another son had a coin and stamp collection which became a business that Mama was obliged to take over when he joined the Air Force. Delphia Tipton has had years of experience in an exclusive Hollywood camera shop. Mr. Tipton is a builder who expects to retire some day and help his wife run their new Coin and Stamp center in their adopted community of Morongo Valley.

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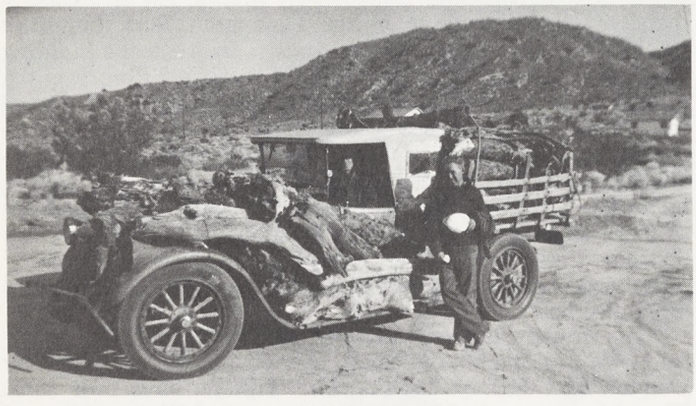
REGIONAL PARK AND NATURE PRESERVE

By Elwyn C. Pollock

Some 125 miles east of Los Angeles on Interstate 10, the long, low, sweeping off-ramp marked "Twentynine Palms" looms ahead. Take it! In seconds you are driving through Devil's Garden—a hot, dry, windy place where people settle down to live with their tired joints, and find solace for arthritis, asthma, and like ailments. Almost at once this barren desert gives way to a pleasant mountain pass which rises to 2600 ft. in three miles. Upon reaching the crest a spectacular view opens out into the "Gateway to the Hi-Desert," Morongo Valley . . . according to Morongo Indian legend: "The Land of Beautiful Waters." Here one may view the entire basin, possibly the smallest completely enclosed valley in Southern California, only eight miles long and four miles wide.

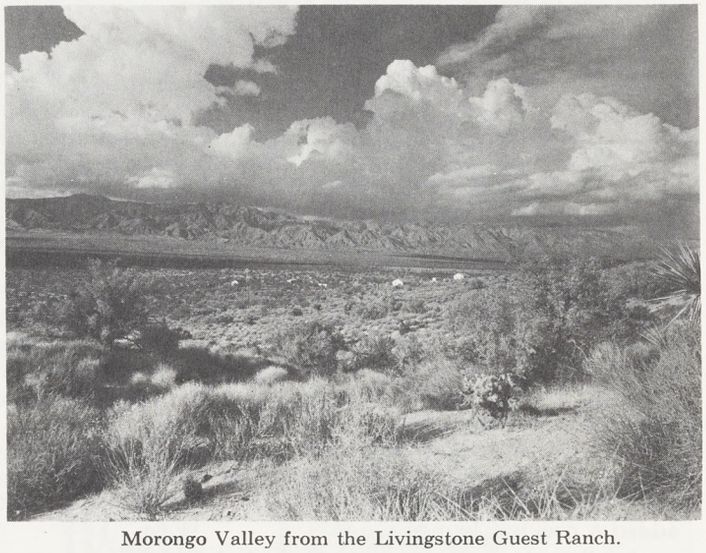
Motorists pass through Morongo Valley on their way to Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree, and Twentynine Palms, and east to the Colorado River. They look straight ahead without the slightest notion of the extraordinary nature of this remarkable valley, unique in Southern California.

Emanating from the wilderness area of Mt. San Gorgonio, two meandering canyons miraculously find their circuitous way into Morongo Valley, one called Big Morongo Canyon, and the other Little Morongo Canyon. Two million



Al Livingstone.

Ben DeCrevecoeur, first white child born in Morongo Valley. His father moved into the valley in 1873, the year before Ben was born, and raised cattle. Ben was, for many years, a deputy sheriff in the Indio station. He was one of the posse leaders during the Willie Boy manhunt.



Morongo Valley from the Livingstone Guest Ranch.

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years ago these canyons were filled with ice and our tiny valley was a bowl of water some 500 ft. deep, according to Dr. Walter C. Lowdermilk, soil conservationist who lived in the valley a number of years.

With the passing of the Ice Age, the canyons—along with the yearly run-off from San Gorgonio—gradually filled the valley with rock, sand, and debris, as well as forming the comparatively flat bottoms to the canyons, contrasting with their original V-shape during the Ice Age.

While streams no longer run through the valley, which was once covered with dense vegetation, including the larch, poplar, and tamarisk trees, evidences of underground revers became apparent at the two oasis locater both in Big and Little Morongo Canyons at the southern edge of the valley. This is caused by the impervious nature of the fill (a "gouged fault") at the base of the Little San Bernardino Mountains. In the 2,000,000 years it took to fill the basin the earth became so tightly compacted that the water was literally forced to the surface, spilling over into the canyons beyond. Some of this welling up resulted from the unique typographical aspect of the valley: there is about a four degree tilt of list toward the oasis, a phenomenon that can readily be grasped while driving through the valley.

Only a scant few know the story of the Big Morongo oasis, and perhaps only as many as attended the big Field Day and Fair of 1969 and 1970 in Covington Park know the unprecedented story of the part the Southern California Chapter of The Nature Conservancy played in helping to create the newest Nature Reserve in the Hi-Desert area.

Just south of Covington Park the last piece of private property in Big Morongo Canyon was purchased by the Nature Conservancy through a revolving fund from the Ford Foundation. The 1969 and 1970 Field Days and Fair raised more than $1000 to this end, and the Covingtons themselves (who owned the land) cut $5000 from the original price as their donation, thus assuring the preservation of another wild-life area in the struggle to save our vanishing wilderness. The purchase of the Sam Levine Ranch adjacent to Covington Park, plus the acquisition, by San Bernardino County, of the remaining land extending to the western boundaries of the Joshua Tree National Monument, makes up some 6500 acres of wilderness park-land.

People throughout our land are becoming highly mindful of the need to prevent any further upset in the delicate balance of nature. A good example is Big Morongo Canyon, where water, plants and animals are now in a less precarious state of balance than they were before the arrival of The Nature Conservancy.

The support of The Nature Conservancy by the people of Morongo Valley during their Field Days and Fairs, goes a long way in showing how well we all appreciate possessing and preserving one of the few remaining natural oasis in the Land of Beautiful Waters.

THE WINDMILL NATURE PRESERVE

The famous old Windmill site just east of the intersection of Pipes Canyon Road and Old Woman Springs Road is being turned into a Nature Preserve under the direction of the Roadrunner District of California Garden Clubs, Inc.

Member clubs working on the project are Palm Wells Garden Club, Palm Wells; Cactus Wren Garden Club, Apple Valley; Coachella Valley Garden Club, La Quinta; Twentynine Palms Garden Club, Twentynine Palms; Landers Garden Club, Landers; and Yucca Valley Garden Club, Yucca Valley.

The Windmill, as the site has been known since the 1920's when Mrs. Shay homesteaded there and the windmill was contructed as a cattle-watering place, has played an important part in the history of this area of the Hi-Desert. Besides providing water for the range cattle, it was the "water hole" used by the early homesteaders. They came there for the water they hauled to their cabins from Yucca Valley to Yucca Mesa. Some, who had little gas to spare for needless travel in the slim days of the depression, made once-a-week trips to The Windmill, taking their water barrels, their laundry and their youngsters. The barrels were filled and loaded onto cars for the trip home, then the laundry was washed and spread out on bushes to dry, and lastly, when the watering trough had filled up again, the youngsters were given their weekly scrubbing, and, as the day ended, each family headed out the old dirt road toward home.

The Hamilton Brothers who ran cattle in the Hi-Desert in the 1940's owned The Windmill when the Garden Club group decided the site should be protected as an historical site and nature preserve. The Hamiltons donated the equipment on the ten-acre area to the group. The Bureau of Land Management has leased them an additional forty acres, with an option to buy.

The fifty-acre tract will be maintained by the clubs. They plan to restore the Windmill and other installations. They also plan to construct a parking area off the Old Woman Springs Road, nature trails with markers identifying native plants and rocks, and the preservation of the natural vegetation.

Present plans for the Nature Preserve project over five years as the clubs can raise the necessary funds for the restoration and construction. The Preserve will offer visitors a tiny glimpse into the history of the Hi-Desert and a close-up look at some of those plants native to a desert wash.

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Landers

By Vernette Landers

The Hi-Desert community of Landers began in 1950 when eight airminded men—Newlin Landers, Joe Nugent and his brother-in-law, George Belfield, Jack Bale, A. T. Stock, Dr. Morris and Jack Hulet—put legal descriptions in a hat and drew lots. They filed on the tracts the same hour and the same day at the Bureau of Land Management in Los Angeles. They planned the location of their tracts so there would be four on a side of an airstrip 2640 feet long which could be cut 100 feet wide down the center of the claims.

Landers and the landing strip appeared on the Geodetical Survey Map of Emerson Lake in 1954. Following this, it appeared on World Air Charts and Sectional Charts. Landers first appeared on oil company road maps in 1960. Richfield was the first to include it.

The men brought in bulldozers and trucks to make a roadway from Goat Mountain Road to their sites. George Belfield from Bell Gardens, built the first home in Landers in 1951. George wanted to start a mutual water company to bring water to that part of the Hi-Desert. Collections were taken by Hazel Bale, treasurer for the new company, and a 165-foot well was drilled on George's claim. Later, George and his wife, Merrol, added a tiled swimming pool and showers, a public bar and a motel, and moved the Sky Room Cafe to their property.

The Sky Room Cafe changed hands several times. It was owned by Ira and Eva Hensley and Earl and Ramona Fancher, then by Lloyd and Odetta Bashor. It is now occupied by the Moose Lodge.

William Coffey was the first governor of Chapter No. 1788 Loyal Order of Moose, which enrolled at Landers in 1963. In 1967, during his term as Governor, Ray Currie helped institute the Landers chapter of Women of the Moose. His wife, Ruth, is Graduate Regent.

Lee Defever, from Cudahy, California, and an airminded man who was sold on the project of his eight friends, filed on a tract to the east of them and built the second home. According to Mary Defever, Lee's wife, it was at this home that seven of the group met to decide on a name for their community. Newlin was the one member of the group who was not present. The others decided to name the community Landers after Newlin Landers with whom the idea of a flier's hideaway in the desert had originated.

Newlin had flown out to a dry lake by Giant Rock with his brother, Sterling, in 1947 to investigate the spot where a man had reportedly blown himself up. He kept flying back to this spot and eventually met George Van Tassel, who had leased the place. George told him about the five-acre tracts and helped him take the initial steps in locating a site for an airstrip.

DeFevers later added a wide porch around their home, and it became known as DeFever Hall, because it was loaned rent-free as a community meeting place. The Landers Association, Inc., and the Homestead Valley Women's Club were organized in DeFever Hall, and they held their first meetings there. The first Sunday School and the first church service were held there, also. The DeFevers often rented a motel when they came to Landers, because their home was in use at the time of their visit. DeFever Hall burned to the ground August 5, 1963. Glenna Kirkendall, the daughter of the late George Belfield, now lives with her family in a home on the site of this old landmark.

Newlin Landers built the third home and put in a light plant. In 1951 the early settlers of Landers banded together with others in the Hi-Desert to form an electric co-op, and in 1957 the Government gave the area electricity through the REA program. The co-op was later purchased by the Southern California Edison Company. In 1960 three-phase electricity was brought into Landers for more efficient pumping of wells. Newlin had had his own well drilled in 1953 which he operated with a gas engine from an old Chevrolet.

Water is good in Landers, but those residents who are not in a water district and who do not have a well pay to have domestic water trucked to their homes or haul it themselves. People come with all types of containers and conveyances to get water from Newlin Landers' well.

Jack Bale, of Bell Gardens, built the fourth home. He added a cafe and this was the beginning of the Sky Room Cafe which was later moved to George Belfield's property. He put in a gas station. Newlin Landers later purchased the station and added a pump and tank for aviation gas. He still uses the station as a base of operations for his water delivery service and septic tank and water system installation business.

Joe Nugent built the fifth home. He had been Newlin's pilot teacher. The owner of six planes, he promoted air charters to remote places. He plotted a plane haven at Landers and hung up a wind sock. Friends from all over flew in for weekends.

Jack Hulet, who worked in the tire business while he was studying to become an accountant, built a home north of the Bale property. Dr. Morris, from Lakewood, California, built a home across from the gas station. A. T. Stock from Bell Gardens built just north of Dr. Morris.

Bill and Georgia Elliott, the first realtors in Landers, have a beautiful split-level home on Reche Road.

The town meetings became more organized in later years and groups with varied interests began to form associations and to build their own halls. The Homestead Valley Women's Club was organized at Landers in 1958 under the efficient leadership of Peggy Peck, the first and third president. In 1961 the members accepted a gift of land from Newlin Landers, and they now have their own clubhouse at 1979 Landers Lane. It was officially opened with a dinner and a bazaar in December, 1961.

On February 13, 1959, the Landers Association, Inc., received its State charter. John Handley was the first president. In 1962 George Belfield gave the Association land on the corner of Reche Road and Becker Avenue and a building was completed the same year.

The Landers Community Church accepted land from Joe Mettling in 1963 and completed its building with donated labor the following year. Homer Skortz constructed the outdoor bulletin board and planter.

The Landers Area Chamber of Commerce was organized in October, 1962. Carl Dalton, tank manufacturer, was the first president. The Chamber sponsored the first Fun Festival in October, 1963.

Adele Glomb at her typewriter. She was editor of the Landers Association Newsletter in 1967. She also served as editor for the Landers Garden Club, Landers Moose Lodge #1788, and Landers Chapter, Women of the Moose #1373. In 1968 she was president of the Homestead Valley Women's Club. In 1969 she served as Senior Regent of the Landers Women of the Moose. She was Secretary for the Landers Volunteer Fire Department.

These pages sponsored by Mrs. Vernette Landers

Carl Brian has been active in the Desert Beautiful project. The Landers Garden Club was organized in 1967 with James Barter as its first president.

In 1967, the Landers Association, Inc., under the direction of president Ed Glomb, began the organization of the Landers Volunteer Fire Department with Charlie Rose as chairman. Max Epley was elected the first Fire Chief. They built a two-engine firehouse on Landers Lane. The Fire Department was disbanded in 1971.

In 1959, Newlin Landers married Mrs. Vernette Lum, who had filed on a five-acre tract on Old Woman Springs Road back in the 1940's. Mrs. Landers succeeded in getting a rural station Post Office for Landers which was opened in 1962 in the former Klingbeil cabin on Reche Road and Landers Lane purchased from Frances and Richard Kelly. Mrs. Landers was clerk-in-charge and Mary Chessey the first postal clerk. Assistant postal clerks have been Charlotte Ogg, Mary Okey and Virginia DeShon. Newlin Landers was the first mail messenger. He took the mail from Landers to the Yucca Valley Post Office and brought the Landers mail back. A rural route delivery from Yucca Valley to private mail boxes in the area was established in 1962. Oswald Harrod drove the rural route truck and picked up and delivered the mail at the Landers Post Office. Edward Wright took over the mail delivery when Harrod retired in 1970.

A telephone exchange was put into service in Landers in 1963. A voting precinct was established in 1963, and on November 19, that year, the first issue to be voted on was school bonds. Ruth Currie was inspector and Virginia DeShon and Josephine Sisk were judges at the Landers Association, Inc., building, which was the first polling place.

In 1964 the Board of Education of the Morongo Unified School District accepted a donation of land for a school in Landers from Mr. and Mrs. Art Katje, Don Kagy and Gus Stratton, but no school has been built yet.

In 1965, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors voted a ten-acre disposal site for the area.

Through the efforts of George Belfield, the San Bernardino County Road Department erected Landers identification signs on Old Woman Springs Road and on Reche Road in 1964.

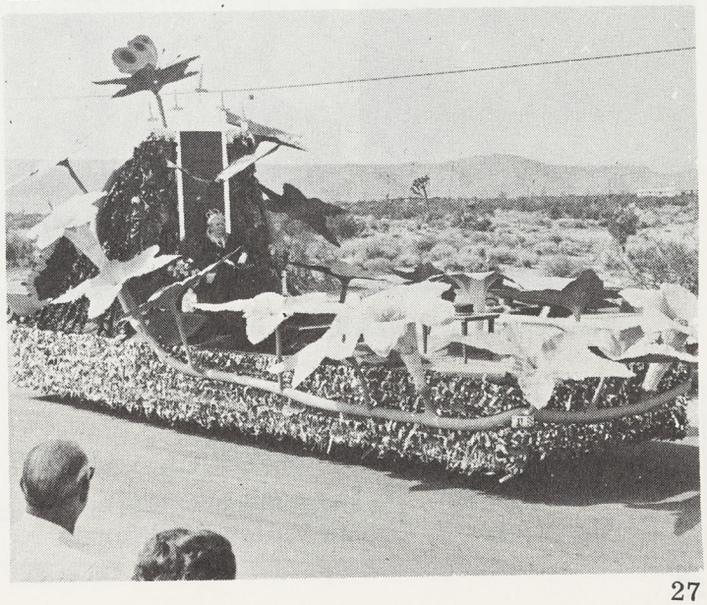
Dorothy Dolen has served as boundary and identification chairman for the Landers Association, Inc., and has worked long and diligently to get street maps made.

In 1956 Johnny and Betty Taylor leased the Sky Room Cafe. The following year they opened the Golden Slipper Cafe. In 1969, Bob and Robby Hunt purchased it and changed the name to Castle Inn.

The Desert Room, another night spot, was started by Lloyd Rafferty on the Old Woman Springs Road in 1962.

1968 Fun Festival Queen contestants. From left to right: Robin Smollen, Carol Smollen, Linda Boyd, Sandy Smollen, princess, Debi Hill, queen, and Lillian Page, princess.

Above: Mr. and Mrs. Ray Currie. Below: The Lynn Twins' float in the Landers Fun Festival parade.



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George Van Tassel and his Time Machine at Giant Rock.

It was leased to Curley and Florence Weaver. From 1967, Arlie Gripe managed the Desert Room for Curley until it was leased, in 1971, to the Pennys by the present owner, Mr. Peck.

Whalens' Drive In, the first in the Landers area, was built in 1965 by J. C. Whalen and operated by his wife, Marie.

Robert and Jeannie Halliday built Halliday's Market on the front of the old Coppock cabin on Reche Road in 1967. The Hallidays moved to Landers from San Bernardino after being weeknders for more than six years.

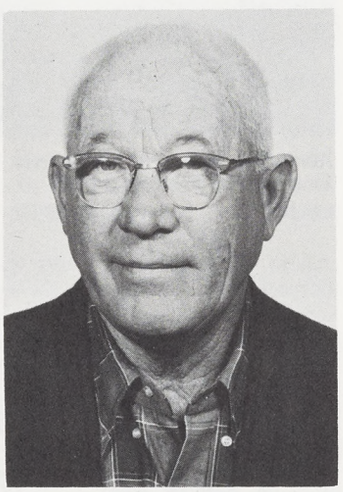
Wally's Garage was started by Wally Owczarzak on Old Woman Springs Road in 1964. He built a two-story home next door in 1967.

Hazel Galloupe owns and operates the only beauty salon in the area, started in 1962.

Farther south, Vince and Marge Joy opened their shopping center, Joy's Paint, Hardware and Lumber Supply, on Old Woman Springs Road in 1962. Vince was president of the Landers Area Chamber of Commerce in 1966 and is now serving on the Board of Landers Association, Inc.

In Landers, many of the businesses, as well as residences, are scattered at least five acres apart. Some are along sandy trails built by the owners. This last frontier town is unique in that it requires so much pioneer spirit and courage of its inhabitants in this modern space age.

Vernette Landers



Newlin Landers

Yucca Mesa

From Bernita Davis' Notes

Out on the Surprise Springs Road crouches an expanse of tableland near Coyote Mountain. During the 1920's and early '30's homesteaders filed on several quarter sections of this open range land called Yucca Mesa. At that time only two dirt roads led into the area. The sandy tracks of the Surprise Springs Road turned north from the washboardy Twentynine Palms Highway just a few miles east of Warren's Well and Old Woman Springs Road, and wound upwards through a forest of Joshua Trees, Creosote, Sage and Spanish Daggers for about nine miles. From the Mesa, Surprise Springs was another seven miles, more or less, and was the nearest source of water. Surprise Springs is now inside the U.S. Marine Corps Base and inaccessable to the public. A few cattlemen and miners used the other road—a shortcut from Pipes Canyon to the Mesa. It was called "that blankety blank burro trail" leading to the Boldman, Davis, Olwel and Schly homesteads. Since then these two routes have been surveyed, straightened and blacktopped and are now the Aberdeen and Yucca Mesa Roads.

After World War II and the U.S. Government Five-Acre Tract Law, veterans and folks from coast cities began taking out claims and building the required size cabins in order to "prove up" on their acreage. By 1961 many of these families had built comfortable homes and moved to the Mesa permanently and were feeling the need of a community center. The outcome was their Yucca Mesa Improvement Association with a clubhouse located on five acres of donated land and devoted to the betterment and progress of the community

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Nacha on their 50th Anniversary.

Cecil Davis, Carsten Bentrude and Ervin Graves.

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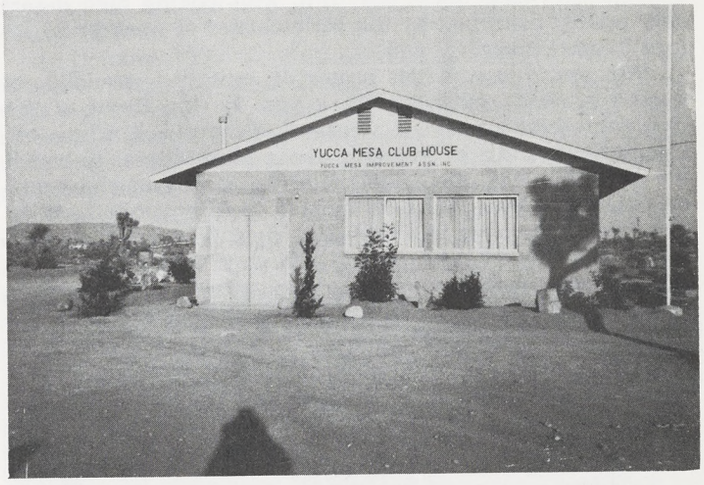
that is now recognized by both the State of California and the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit civic organization. The group found it was easier and more practical to share the problems common to all pioneers. They provided their own road grading equipment and shared in the work. Why wear out good cars getting stuck in the sand while waiting for the County to get around to grading roads, they asked themselves. Through combined efforts electricity, water and telephones came to the Mesa area. This year at the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce luncheon the Yucca Mesa Garden Club won an award for the beautiful landscaping of the clubhouse grounds.

The Association publishes a monthly bulletin, The Yucca Mesa Progress, which is mailed to each member of the organization. Many Yucca Mesa land owners still live elsewhere. In volume two, number ten, dated August, 1963, there is an account of that great day in July when the cement slab for the clubhouse was poured. Donating their labor that day were C. Bentrud, Don Sisk, Nick Rodewald, Cecil Davis, Ivan Graves, George Skeith, Jerry Leptein, A. J. McCoy, Bill Fuelscher, Gordon Nichols, Gracie Graves, Harry Stromquist, Joe Buresch, and, presiding over lunch and refreshments were Pearl Bentrud, Anne Leptein, Bernita Davis, and Essie Rotcliff. It was truly a big day. There was a quote in the paper by Henry Van Dyke that went "Use what talents you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those who sang best."

From the Improvement Association's beginning in 1960, the good neighbor policy plus donations of labor and money enabled the group to burn the mortgage six years later on September 17, 1966. It can be assumed the never-failing monthly bulletin played a vital part in holding the club together. Today, children ride the big yellow school bus along Yucca Mesa Road. It seems miraculous that so much taxable property has evolved from so large an expanse of Hi-Desert country. The Yucca Mesa clubhouse is also the polling place —they have their own voting precinct. There is rural mail delivery. The days when a homestead mother hauled the family wash to a desert oasis, and while the laundry was drying spread out on nearby bushes, bathed the kids in the scrubbed-out watering trough, are no more. Jackrabbits, foolishly leaving the shelter of a cactus patch to cross the blacktop road to that greener patch of sage shimmering in the sun, hop into danger of becoming buzzard bait under the speedy cars that have taken the place of Model T's and burros. The Yucca Mesa Improvement Association welcomes Grubstake visitors.



Yucca Mesa Clubhouse

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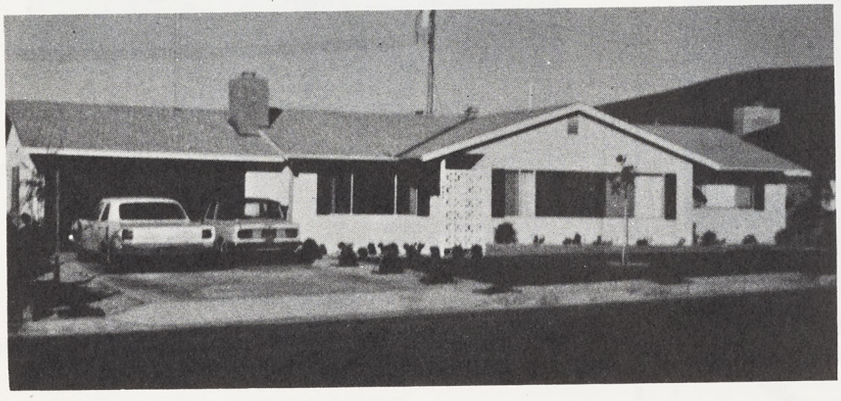

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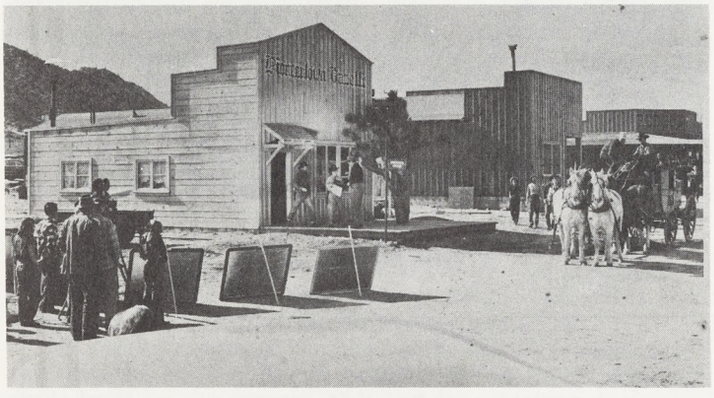
Pioneertown and Rimrock

Just four miles north of Yucca Valley along Pioneertown Road lies the little movie set village, Pioneertown, started back in 1946 by Dick Curtis, western movie "heavy". It's Mane Street was often used to film such westerns as the Gene Autry, Cisco Kid, Range Rider and Annie Oakley TV series, and movies. The buildings are made in the old-western cow-town style, most of them naturally weathered board-and-batten with false second-story fronts.

Pioneertown is nestled in a small narrow valley between rugged rocky hills and flat-topped mesas. The top of Mt. San Gorgonio rises just above the San Bernardino Mountains to the west. It's a beautiful, wild-looking high desert only faintly disturbed by the little cluster of weather buildings in the village.

But the village is the center of activity, especially on weekends, when tourists with a yen for the flavor of the past come into town for a weekend of horseback riding, exploring back trails or lounging along Mane Street to watch the Bravados and the Suddeners, two local gun clubs, put on old west shows. They act out ten to fifteen minute skits, shoot-outs, hangings and robberies right there on the street and in the shops for the entertainment of visitors.



Shooting a movie in Pioneertown in 1948.

Yucca Valley's first Honorary Mayor, Leo Carrillo, during the shooting of a Cisco Kid picture in Pioneertown.

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On the walls of the Pioneer Bowl, the local bowling alley, have been preserved the murals originally painted in 1948 when the Bowl was constructed. The 'characters' in the murals represent many of the original Pioneertowners, as well as some of the actors and movie technicians on location in Pioneertown at that time.

Pioneertown hosts many riding groups and Scout campouts during the year, but their big event is their Fourth of July Youth Weekend, featuring a Youth Parade and a Pioneertown Youth Queen.

1970 Pioneertown Youth Queen is Peggy Janette Kee, 9, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John "Corky" Kee of Yucca Valley. Peggy's grandfather, Johnnie Kee, homesteaded at the foot of the hills just west of Pioneertown back in the 1930's.

Peggy is an accomplished horseback rider and has been riding just about as long as she's been walking. She's been division Marshal in the Landers Fun Festival parade and in the Joshua Tree Turtle Races parade and has been an entry in the Grubstake Days parade for most of her nine years. She and her sisters, Beverly, Johnna and Jamie, own a magnificent collection of parade ribbons and trophies.

Four miles west of Pioneertown along the Pioneer Pass Road lies Rimrock, the residential sister-village of Pioneertown. Also started in 1946, Rimrock lies at the entrance to Burns Canyon, where Pioneer Pass starts to wind its way into the mountains toward Big Bear, eighteen miles away.

Rimrock is a subdivision of homesites, with the Rimrock Motel, its only business establishment. The motel is popular with desert visitors looking for a quiet restful place to stay.

Peggy Kee, Pioneertown Youth Queen

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Sunfair

by Maria Girouard

Sunfair, the "area with a wonderful future," is just four miles east of Joshua Tree, on Highway 62. It is an exclusive high desert valley unique in its dryness of terrain because of a water drainage at both ends of the community. Chet Bunker, president resident, the late Lester V. Peterman, and others foresaw the potentials of this land once called Sun Valley but named Sunfair after it was discovered that California already had such a city. In 1949 a group in the community organized the Sunfair Turkey Growers' Association, a business and social organization promoting successful turkey shows for five years. Mr. Bunker planned the layout of the present streets and roads. San Gorgonio and San Jacinto mountain ranges, snow capped in winter, can be seen from most homes in Sunfair. The Little San Bernardino Mountains, ever changing in color, lie to the south marking the edge of the Joshua Tree National Monument. Joshua trees, Mojave yuccas, creosote bushes, various cacti and wildflowers in the spring charm city visitors and Sunfairites. Many visitors found their place in the sun here and moved to this little community of the high desert.

The Sunfair Community Association, Inc. (the former Turkey Growers Assn.) incorporated in 1965. It, along with Joshua Tree businessmen, has been instrumental in planning and developing Copper Mountain Regional Lake-Park.

They love the country life where they are close enough to nature to observe the desert wildlife in their own yards. Coyotes, roadrunners, kangaroo rats and antelope squirrels come by for tidbits. Quail and songbirds make themselves at home when generous humans put out favorite rations.

Panorama Heights

By Elsie Lachman

THE COMMUNITY of Panorama Heights — five miles east of Joshua Tree—came into being during the year of 1954 when Reed E. Sturdevant, the owner, drafted a subdivision to be known as Panorama Heights. In 1955 Clyde Roland arrived to take over the sale of the lots and is now a permanent resident.

From that time forward Panorama Heights grew slowly but surely. The Panorama Heights Community Club was organized on July 16, 1960, with the purpose of improving their social life as well as the physical appearance of the community.

In October, 1960, the club enrolled as a member of "Keep America Beautiful" and through the years have continued with regular clean-up, paint and fix-up programs and their motto has been, "We are doing—not talking." Ion A Lachman, owner of the Panorama Heights Water Co., has been president of the Community Club since 1961.

Through the efforts of the Community Club, telephones were installed, streets were paved, street lights and TV cable installed. The Panorama Heights Community Club built a swimming pool with enclosure and deck area where luaus and other festive events such as box suppers, strawberry festivals and hobo parties are held.

The first luau in 1963 was put on by Mrs. Ronald Owens who at that time was a resident of the community and who was a native of the Island of Tonga in the South Pacific. Consequently, through the years, the luaus have maintained the authentic Polynesian influence.

In October, 1970, the Community Club was incorporated and presently plans are under way for the construction of a clubhouse. Though some of the original members are no longer here, new and younger members have been added and the cause is being carried on with zest and enthusiasm.

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Twentynine Palms

Twentynine Palms was the home of Chemehuevi and Serrano Indians for generations before the first prospector came into the Hi-Desert. They lived at the Oasis of Mara and developed a small community which remained until about 1913, when the last Indians at the Oasis moved to other reservations.

Prospectors found gold in the desert hills near the Oasis and the mining towns of Virginia Dale and Old Dale grew up near the mines and gold mills. When the price of gold was too low to pay the high cost of mining it and hauling it in outlying desert areas, the mines shut down and the miners and their families moved away.

But soon after World War I, disabled veterans moved into Twentynine Palms and took up homesteads near the Oasis. From this beginning, the present town developed, with many of the original homesteaders and their families still living in the area.

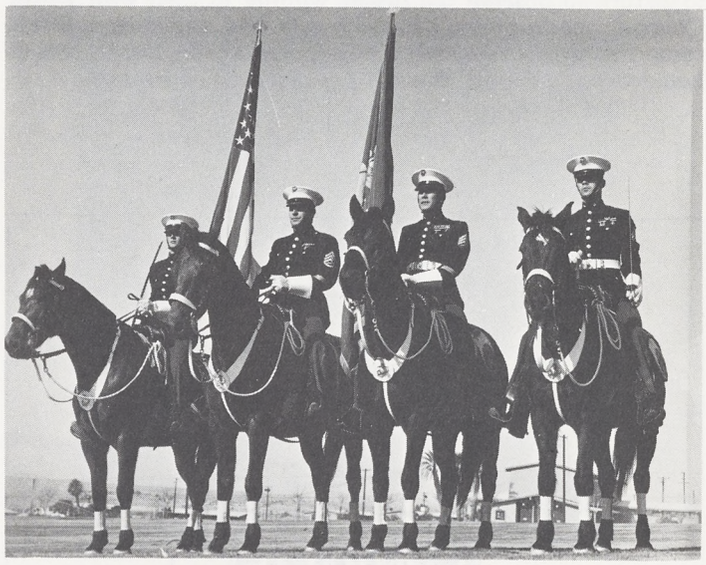
The American Legion played a large part in the development of Twentynine Palms and helped many of the veterans establish their homesteads and adapt to the new way of life.

The healthful climate of the Hi-Desert began to bring tourists into Twentynine Palms and many of them came back to build homes. During World War II, a naval station was established north of town and many of the men stationed at the base returned after the war to make Twentynine Palms their permanent home.

In 1953, the base was taken over by the Marine Corps and is now the Twentynine Palms Marine Base, the largest military base in the country.

The Old Adobe in 1945. Built about 1890, it was the first permanent building in Twentynine Palms.

Oasis of Mara



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HI-DESERT ANNUAL EVENTS

March:

Boy's Annual Invitational Basketball Tournament held just prior to Easter vacation at the Twentynine Palms Marine Base.

May:

National Turtle Races in Joshua Tree on the 1st weekend.

Armed Forces Day Celebration at the Twentynine Palms Marine Base.

Grubstake Days Celebration in Yucca Valley on Memorial Day weekend.

July:

4th of July Family Fun Day in Twentynine Palms at Luckie Park.

4th of July Youth Weekend in Pioneertown.

September:

Morongo Valley Fiesta in Morongo Valley over Labor Day weekend.

October:

Weed Show and Gem and Mineral Show at Twentynine Palms on the 1st or 2nd weekend.

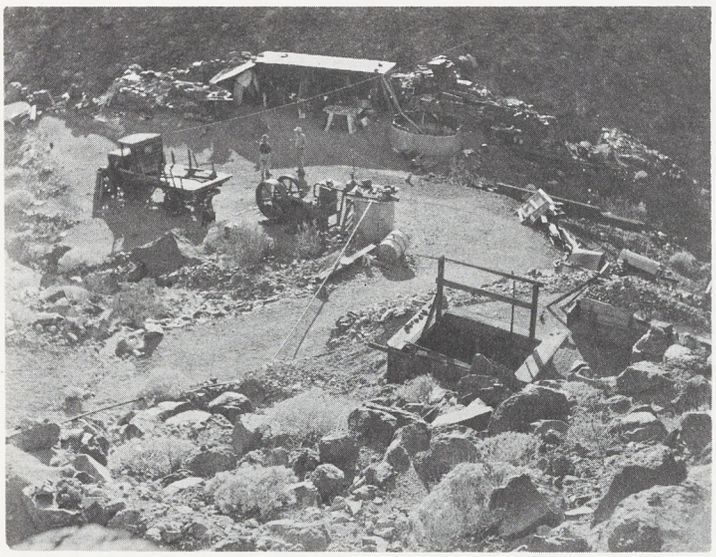
Pioneer Pass Golf Challenge from Big Bear to Yucca Valley along Pioneer Pass Road.

Pioneer Days in Twentynine Palms on the 3rd weekend.

Flower and Hobby Show in Yucca Valley.

December:

Christmas Pageant in Joshua Tree.



A mining camp on the Hi-Desert. The photo was taken in the 1940's.

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT

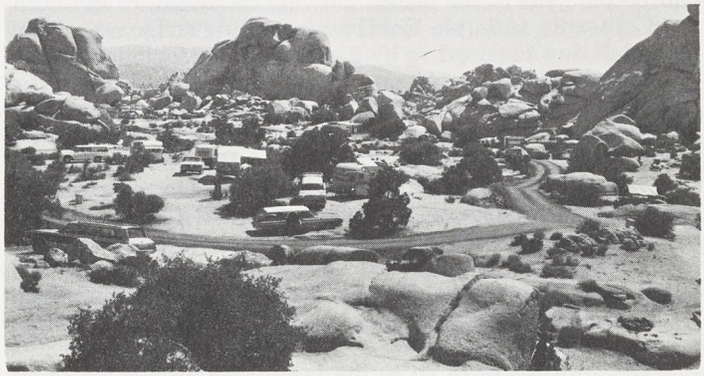
The Joshua Tree National Monument, the largest in the country, lies sprawling across the Little San Bernardino Mountains and the Pinto Basin from Black Rock Springs to Cottonwood Springs and from Little Morongo Canyon to the Coxcomb Mountains. It lies across the border between the low desert and the high desert, containing some of both in its more than half a million acres.

The Monument is a fascinating cross-section of desert wilderness preserved in its natural state. There visitors can see the miniscule belly-flowers that sprout and blossom after a spring rain, each tiny plant hardly visible as one walks along the sandy paths, yet having numerous flowers, sometimes not as large as a pinhead, but as complete in every detail as the blossoms of larger plants. Poppies, for-get-me-nots, Desert Star and Golden Gilia are some of the tiny, but lovely, belly-flowers.

There are magnificent stands of the Joshua Tree, that giant lily that fascinates visitors on their trips to the Hi-Desert.

The Monument has campground facilities in many areas, Indian Cove, Hidden Valley and Cottonwood Springs probably being the most popular. There are rocks to climb, canyons to explore, and trails to hike. There are a number of springs and oases which can be reached only by trail, but the rewards are great when the hiker arrives at his destination.

The Monument Headquarters in Twentynine Palms has wild flower collections, Indian artifacts and Cactus specimens on display. There one can learn the history of the Monument, something about Pinto Man, whose ancient camp sites were discovered in Pinto Basin within the Monument, and about the wildlife of the Hi-Desert. The Headquarters buildings are at the Oasis of Mara with its Washingtonian Palms . . . the palms that gave Twentynine Palms its name.



Hidden Valley Campground in the Joshua Tree National Monument.

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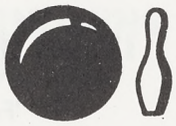

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Yucca Valley Airport

A 1951 snowstorm forced Dr. John A. Bendall to land his rented plane on the only available airstrip east of the Little San Bernardinos. The doctor had gotten off course on his way from Las Vegas to Los Angeles.

This was Yucca Valley, a friendly community. There seemed to be an inexhaustible supply of open range country where each newcomer was building his home in the middle of his own five acres. Here was a real opportunity for a professional man. They hadn't had electricity and telephones out here more than a couple of years and there was a four-bed hospital thirty miles away in Twentynine Palms and a reconditioned army hospital some thirty-five miles south at Palm Springs. Yes, a doctor like himself who had grown up in Globe, Arizona, and enjoyed open country could do all right in a place like this.

Dr. Bendall and his family became regular weekend visitors to the Hi-Desert and saw the need for a doctor. Soon he hung his shingle in front of a building on the highway. During the first years of his practice in Yucca Valley, the doctor flew to the distant hospitals. In Twentynine Palms, he was met at the airstrip by Deputy Jack Cones and driven to the hospital. He did his banking by plane and on occasion flew to a patient's bedside. The local water company offered to furnish water to Triangle Park at Yucca Trail and the highway if someone would install the pipe and do some simple landscaping. Antone Martin had donated a statue of a sabre-tooth tiger. Doc and his friend, Shorty Orr, dug the ditch from the corner of what is now Callahan's restaurant to the tiger.

Between office calls, hospital calls and flying to the city for a class in medical school, the doctor still found time to move his family and office to a new home on Bannock Trail and plant trees in the new Hi-Desert Park. Yucca Valley had become one of the fastest growing communities in Southern California and Jule Boldiszar's landing strip was getting too small and hemmed in by new building developments.

A cloudburst one summer night was a prelude to Yucca Valley's present airport location. Emergency road crews were out early next morning when the doctor left his car at the washed out intersection of Twentynine Palms Highway and the Victorville road and followed Charlie Gross across old Warren Well Ranch to Guy Ohlen's small home. Ohlen, a Spanish War veteran, had suffered a stroke during the night and his neighbors, June Paxton, Charlie and his wife, were doing what they could. Charlie had walked into the village for Dr. Bendall as the phones had gone out. The Doc's tone was low and final.

"Get him ready to go to the hospital. I'll have an ambulance up here inside an hour."

What he said to the county road crew or how he got the Joshua Tree ambulance to follow the 'dozer for over a quarter of a mile to the sick man's door is not known, but Guy Ohlen rode to the Twentynine Palms hospital in comparative comfort. Dr. Bendall, however, decided he wanted to own Warren's Well Ranch, all 80 acres of it. He learned that the original well on the property had been dug in 1881 and the buildings had been made over and reconditioned through the years since the place had been a stage stop between Banning and Twentynine Palms. Sea gulls and wild ducks on their way to the Salton Sea had been known to be blown off course and would land at the Warren's Well watering trough.

It is about twenty-three years since Dr. Bendall bought the ranch. "I did most of the work on the Copper Room myself," grins the Doctor. "That's the time I really practiced medicine out of my bag." By 1957, Yucca Valley's new privately owned airport and dinner house was flourishing. Flying businessmen were purchasing homesites along the airstrip so they could tie down in their own back yard. In 1958 ten planes could tie down in front of the Copper Room and at times the flyboys who now called themselves the Cactus Hoppers were called on by the local sheriff's posse to take part in search and rescue missions.

Dr. Bendall and his wife, Evelyn, had reconditioned the old adobe house and added a modern medical office and treatment room. The picturesque Spanish type home with an airplane hangar in the front yard overlooks the windmill and an ancient mesquite tree. The doctor has sold the lion's share of his 80-acre parcel and is fondly thinking of retirement.

Dr. and Mrs. John Bendall

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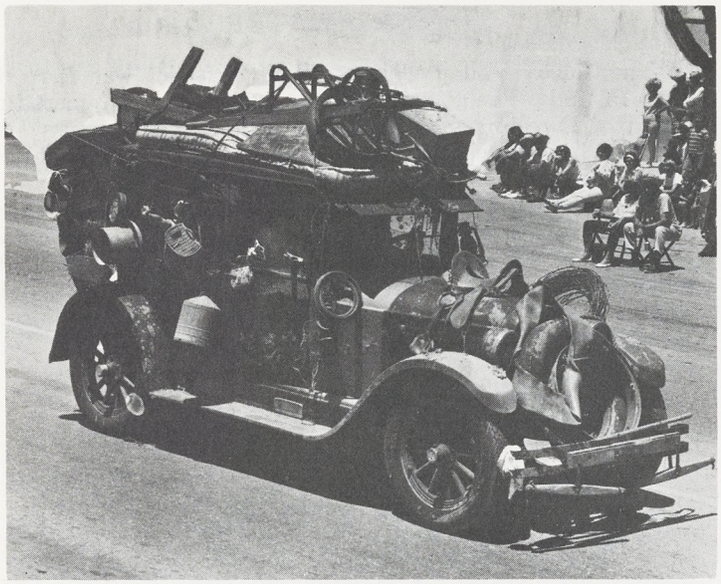

Grubstake Days Parade entry . . . how the early homesteaders moved to the High Desert.

PIONEER WATER COMPANY

Ted Jurling

UNDERGROUND SPRING and deep well water is one of Yucca Valley's natural resources, and right from the beginning, local real estate signs have stated, "Come to Yucca Valley, the streets are paved; water and electricity are in and paid for." This could be a basic reason for the desert community's rapid growth during the past twenty-six years. The Yucca Water Company, Ltd., was established in 1945 with one commercial well located at the corner of Fox and Santa Fe trails. The small group of men who pooled their money to buy that well must have been men with faith in the land and its future—dreamers—who could look at a desert expanse of cactus, sagebrush and Mormon prayer trees and see reservoirs, pipelines and water meters. Though other wells had been drilled or hand-dug in the valley before this a great many families hauled water to their desert haciendas. There was no other way until subdividers Fred Storey and Guy Richards, with several friends, formed a water company and bought the 360-foot-deep well on Fox Trail which had been drilled in 1926 by three doctors from Seattle whose plans for a health establishment had fallen through.

Today this Yucca Valley Water Company owns five deep wells and ten large above-ground reservoirs that supply cool, pure water flowing through 280,000 feet of pipeline to sixteen hundred customers, according to Mr. Ted Jurling, president and manager of the company. In 1947 Mr. Jurling purchased one third of the incorporated water company, Guy Richards and Fred Storey retaining their share of the original investment. In 1949 Guy Richards sold his interest in the water company to Al Anderson of Long Beach. In 1959 Mr. Anderson's stock was sold to George Roney. The present owners of the Yucca Water Company, Ltd., whose office is located at 7350 Acoma Trail in Yucca Valley, are Roney, Storey and Jurling.

Back in the days of "open range" cattlemen built a concrete watering trough at the site of a seepage spring near the south end of Jemez Trail. The spring was never known to dry up and during the 1920's was called "The Tanks" where travelers stopped for cool spring water and homesteaders' wives brought their weekly wash, and bathed the kids, too. Underground water in this vicinity has tested pure and it's cold. According to the books in the water company office Well No. 1 on Fox Trail is 360 ft. deep and still produces its quota of good water. Well No. 2, located on the Pioneertown Road, was drilled in 1947 and is also 360 ft. deep. Well No. 3 is north of the Alamo Market and was drilled in 1960 and is 504 ft. deep. In 1966 Well No. 4 was purchased from Valley Heights Mutual Water Co. whose 500-ft. well is near the Blue Skies Country Club. Included in the same purchase is Well No. 5, located in the area of the golf course, which has since been drilled to a depth of 550 ft. These five wells supply over a million gallons of pure water daily to an area north and south of State Highway 62 and west of Sage Avenue, excepting the Alta Loma Subdivision. According to Mr. Jurling, this water company has invested $600,000 during the last ten years for water development in Yucca Valley and is now planning two more large reservoirs and a new well that could be six or seven hundred feet deep. Replacing pipelines and general maintenance is a perpetual job which eliminates any dull moments for the water company.

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FROM RANCH TO RESTAURANT

In 1933 Old Man Harrell's Lone Star Ranch, bare of every growing thing but his collection of cactus in the front yard, was the only gas station in Yucca Valley. It boasted one pump. The weather-beaten shingle roof on the house shaded the water barrels against the wall. He was the last of his pioneer generation. His land was sold, subdivided and the corner where his shack once stood is now the Lone Star Plaza. The parking area in front covers the old man's yard and a modern neon sign rises high above those vanished gate posts with their Lone Star. Harrell was so right. His acreage is in the center of a town and you can count the old-timers on the fingers of one hand who can sit in the pleasant Hi-D Cafe, sip ice water while waiting to be served, and remember the tin dipper hung on a nail below the water bags in the shade of Old Man Harrell's tiny porch and how good those biscuits and beans had tasted.

Bill and Edna Adams bought the corner in the 1950's and built the shop and apartment complex. Bill was a building contractor, but his wife Edna knew the restaurant business. Her folks had owned and operated a series of restaurants in the Dakotas, Montana and Washington. She insisted her Hi-D Cafe be a family restaurant where folks could relax in a pleasant and friendly atmosphere. The rug on the floor, the oil paintings by local artists on the walls and the tasty food made the restaurant a place to bring the family for Sunday dinner or the children and grandchildren when they drove out to the desert to visit Grandma and Grandpa. Then Edna realized she must sell, her doctor said so, but she couldn't let just anybody take over. Whoever took her place as owner and manager of the Cafe had to be the right sort of cook and bottle washer. Time was short and Edna was having a rough time until her old friends, the Callahans, heard of her predicament and offered to take over for a few months until the right buyer came along.

Francis and Lilly Callahan have many friends in the Hi-Desert. Their cocktail lounge and dinner house had been the most popular Saturday night spot in Yucca Valley. They sold it in the 1960's.

Harvey Selcer, restaurateur from Los Angeles and Palm Springs, had been visiting the Hi-Desert communities for several years, looking for the right investment. He is a young man, with a wife and two small youngsters, and no matter how much he and his family liked the high dry climate of Yucca Valley there had to be ways and means of earning a living before they could move here. Harvey was looking for a small dinner house.

January 2, 1971, Harvey Selcer became the new owner and manager of the Hi-D Cafe in Yucca Valley's Plaza, retaining the Callahans as assistants until regular customers and neighbors knew him and his wife as the friendly hosts they are. "We're open seven days a week," says Harvey, "and we cater to families."

HI-D FAMILY RESTAURANT

In the Plaza

Serving Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Open Every Day

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DESERT WATER

The Yucca Valley County Water District was formed June 15, 1964. The governing body consists of a five-member Board of Directors elected by the people. The company is operated by a General Manager, Mr. Fred H. Tripp, three office personnel and three field men.

The District operates three wells serving an approximate forty-one square mile radius with over 1,700 connections. There are 13 storage tanks with a total capacity of 1,825,000 gallons. The District plans to drill new wells. The original District consisted of 14½ sections with 514 connections. There will soon be a total of 48 sections.

ANSWERING SERVICE ANSWERS DREAM

The Kaarlo Conradis are a friendly couple with years of telephone work behind them. Both Patricia (Pat) and her husband will tell you how, ever since 1954 when they filed on five acres here, they dreamed of owning an answering service on the Hi-Desert. Recently they purchased the Hi-Desert Answering Service and Western Union agency from Mrs. Ruth Gomes.

Yucca Valley's telephone answering service began ten years ago when Ruth Duarte stood beside Al Young's vacant desk and decided it was time to do something about that sign on the ceiling, in black, foot-high letters, "what the hell do you want?"

Al drove the first ambulance in Yucca Valley and his wife had agreed to answer the phone and take messages, but part of the time she was busy waiting table at the Burnt Mountain Dude Ranch, leaving the phone-answering to whoever was in Al's office at the time.

Then Al sold his ambulance and moved away, leaving several businessmen with no one to take their calls. Ruth applied for a business phone and named her new venture the Hi-Desert Answering Service, opening an office at the west end of town with three clients. Ruth Gomes became a partner in 1963, and a year later purchased the business from Ruth Duarte and moved it to its present location on Acoma Trail.

The Conradis have been coming to the Hi-Desert to vacation or spend a night or two in their home above Samel Drive since 1954. They are now making it their permanent home. Mrs. Conradi smiles and says, "It's like a dream come true. Even though my husband was forced to retire because of his health, it was a good move."

The Conradis have two helpers who regularly take their turn at the desk and the friendly voice you hear may be that of Annette Dunne, who moved to the village in order to be with her friends Kaarlo and Pat, or that of Phyllis Clark, who formerly worked for Ruth Gomes.

Hi-Desert Answering Service

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A special thanks to all the wonderful people of Yucca Valley who have worked so hard to make this a successful Grubstake Days.

Grubstake Days Committee

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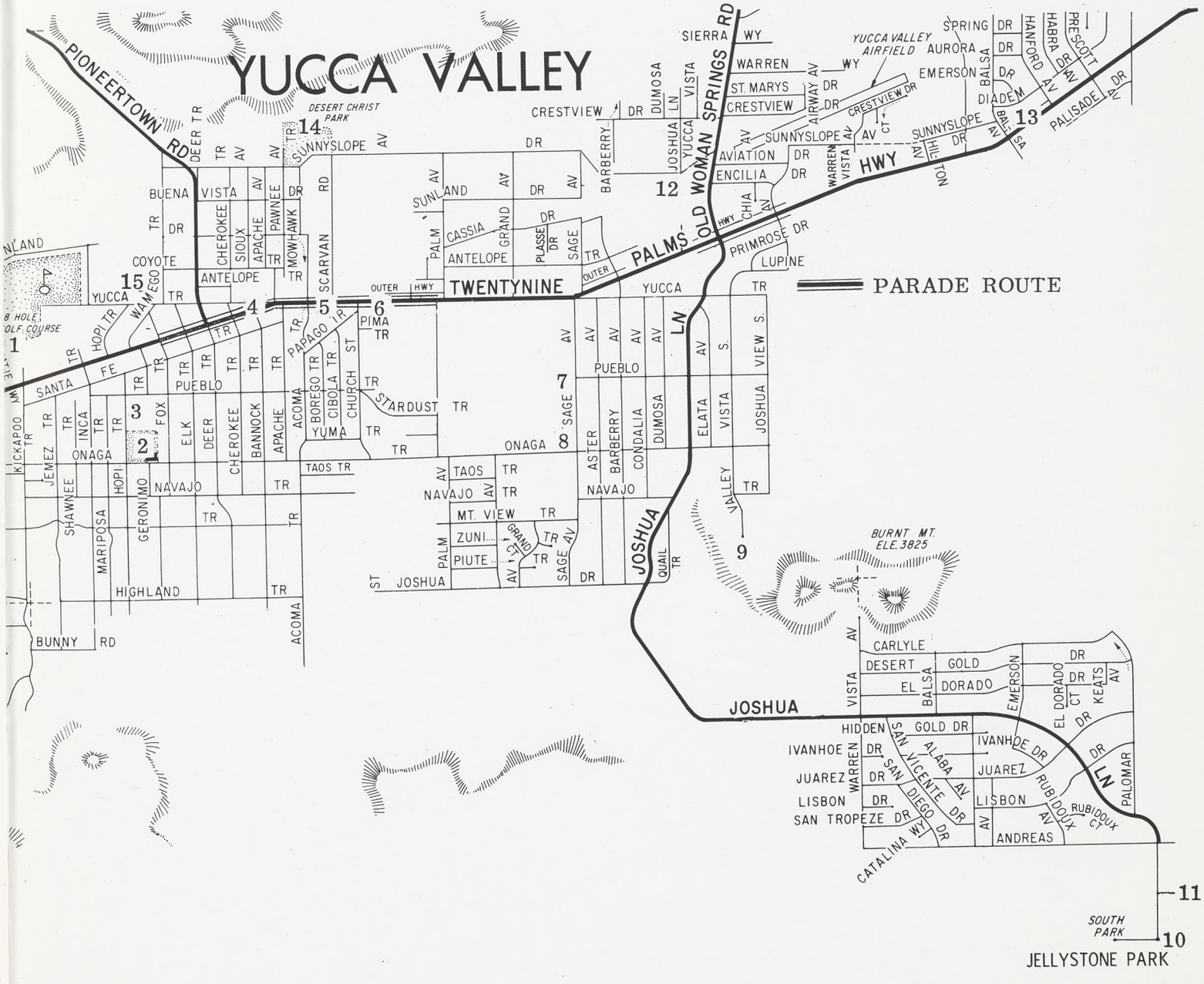
PUBLICITY	J. McCONNELL
PARADE	E. JENSON
PARADE	V. LENTON
SHERIFF CONTEST	W. JENSON
QUEEN CONTEST	ALPHA ALPHA KAPPA

LOCATIONS OF EVENTS

1. Golf Course
2. Hi-Desert Park
   Nature Museum
   Children's Playground
3. Elementary School
4. Triangle Park
5. Security Bank
6. Carnival Grounds
   Chamber of Commerce
7. High School Athletic Field
8. High School
9. Burnt Mountain
10. Jellystone Park
11. Machris Park
12. American Legion Hall
13. Bowling Alley
14. Desert Christ Park
15. Desert Life Show